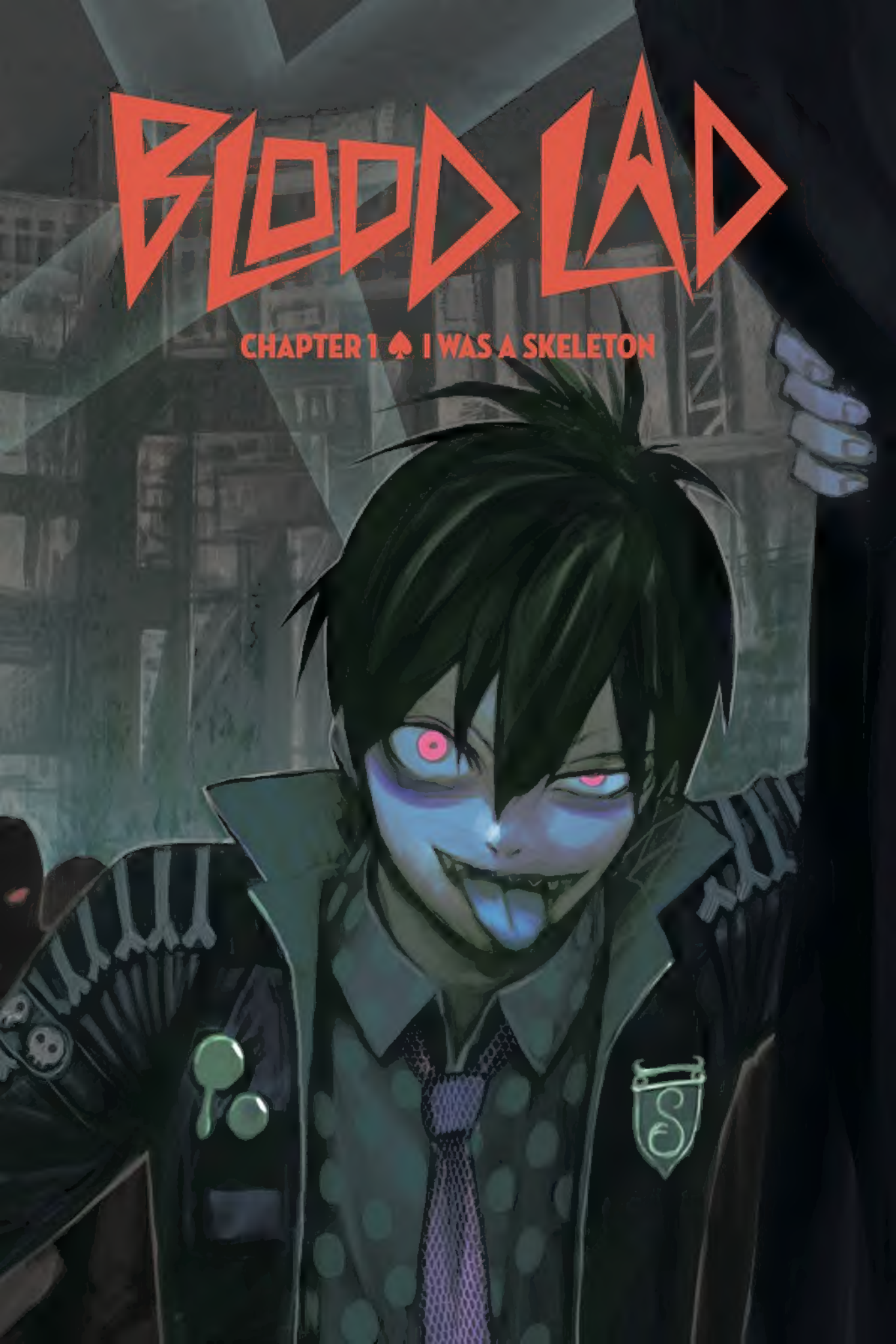
YUUKI KODAMA
BLOOD LAD

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, WITH THE FLAP OF HIS HIGH-COLLARED CAPE, THE MONSTER STALKED HUMANS TO SUCK THEIR BLOOD.
THE VAMPIRE.
JUST A MONSTER PUTTING ON THE AIRS OF A HIGHBORN COUNT.
UNDEAD THOUGH HE WAS, LONG AGO HE TOOK THE APPEARANCE OF A EUROPEAN NOBLEMAN...
DRACULA.
YEAH, THAT'S ME.
BLOOD LAD

# BLOOD LAD

## CHAPTER 1 ♠ I WAS A SKELETON

YUUKI KODAMA

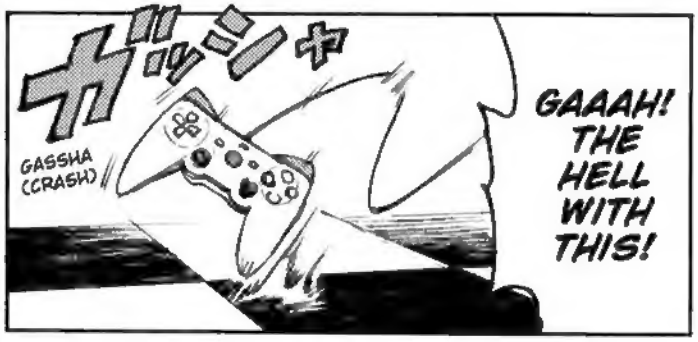

BLOOD LAD
CHAPTER 1 ♠ I WAS A SKELETON

66
YUUKI KODAMA

# CONTENTS

Chapter 1 ♠ I Was a Skeleton...001
Chapter 2 ♠ Noko Buffet...041
Chapter 3 ♠ Back Home, But Not Really...073
Chapter 4 ♠ Ogre Undies...111
Chapter 5 ♠ A Bird That Can't Fly...145
Chapter 6 ♠ A Match You Can't Lose...183
Chapter 7 ♠ The Payback Plan...221
Chapter 8 ♠ The Acropolis...255
Chapter 9 ♠ The Three Bloods...289
Chapter 10 ♠ Fuyumi Inside...323

SFX: DA (BLAM) DA DA DA DA



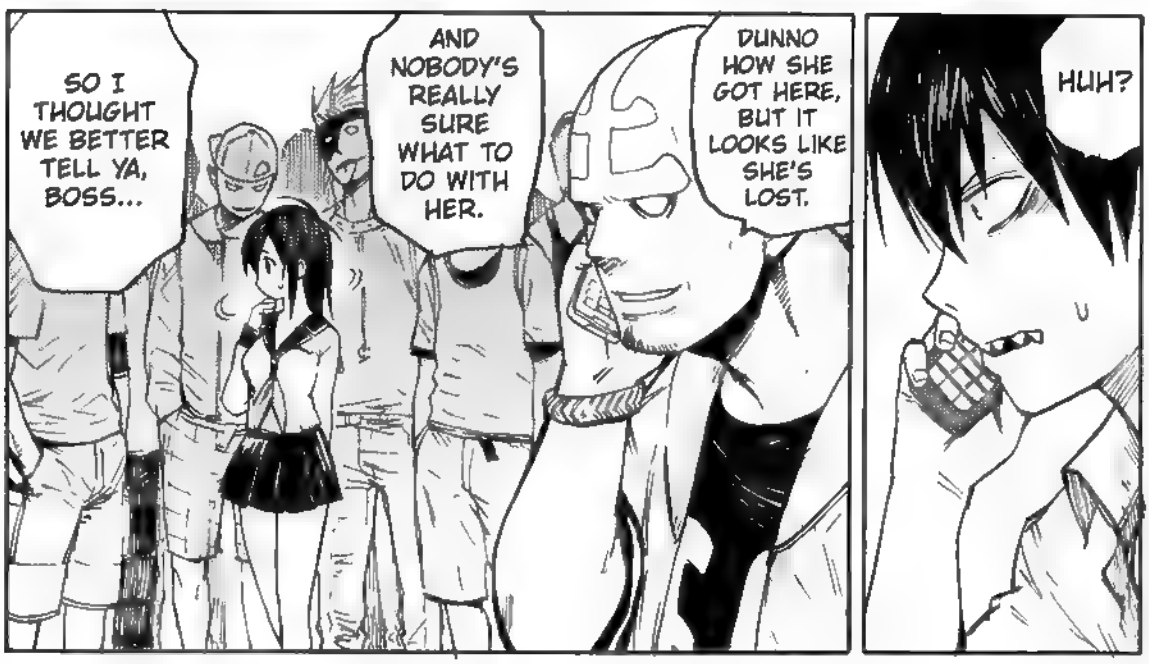
IF YOU ASK ME, THAT JUST SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
SO APPARENTLY MY HONORED ANCESTOR WENT AROUND ACTING LIKE A NOBLEMAN AND SUCKING PEOPLE'S BLOOD.

MEDIA (TOP TO BOTTOM): SWEET REVENGE, 100 CLASSIC ANIME SONGS, MANGA ROAD / PATROLLER, OMAENCHI DVD BOX, GUNDAM / DRAGONCUBE

SHAAA (WHISK)
DOYO
どよ
DOYO (GLOOM)
どよ
DOYO
どよ
...AND GO ALL THE WAY TO THE HUMAN WORLD JUST TO DRINK SOME BLOOD?
WHY WOULD I WANT TO LEAVE THE DEMON WORLD...
COLA

RRRING
BESIDES, IT MIGHT NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY PLATE HERE.
BOO (DAZED)
I HEAR THAT SUNLIGHT STUFF IS NASTY AS HELL...
...AND LEAVING THE DEMON WORLD ISN'T CHEAP. YOU EVEN NEED A PASSPORT.
PI (BEEP)
YES, THIS IS STAZ.
Oh hey, boss! You're awake?
UH, ABOUT THAT...
What, Dek?
Did you get the DVDs and the figures I told you about?
LOOKS LIKE THAT'S GONNA TAKE A LITTLE MORE TIME...
...BUT WE DID FIND YA SOMETHIN' ELSE YA MIGHT LIKE.

WAIT FOR IT... ..... .....
IT'S A GIRL. A HUMAN GIRL.
HELLST

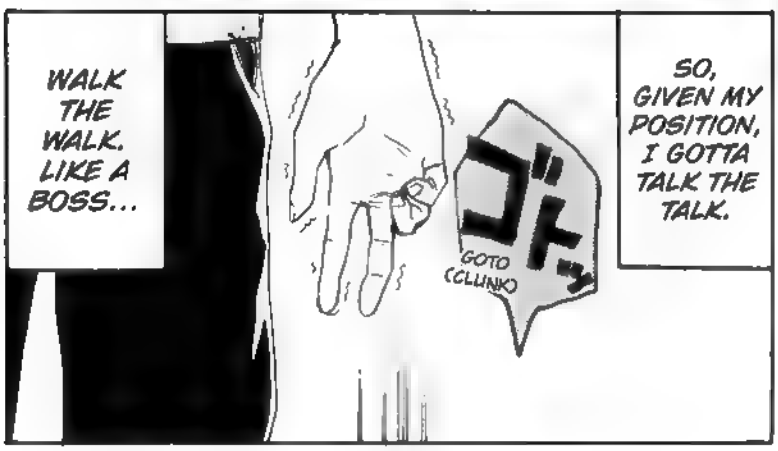

HUH?
DUNNO HOW SHE GOT HERE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S LOST.
AND NOBODY'S REALLY SURE WHAT TO DO WITH HER.
SO I THOUGHT WE BETTER TELL YA, BOSS...

WHEN YOU'RE ON SOMEONE ELSE'S TURF, YOU'RE AT THEIR MERCY.
RULES OF TERRITORY, Y'KNOW.
'COS FACT IS, THIS AIN'T THE HUMAN WORLD.
SO WE SHOULD TREAT HER BY OUR RULES, RIGHT, BOSS?
POSTERS: CLINK! BEER ON THE BEACH! / SEIZE THE SUMMER!
A GIRL... IN THE DEMON WORLD ...
A HUMAN ... GIRL...
Huh? You there, boss?
BRING HER HERE. NOW...
A HUMAN ...!!

THAT'S AN ORDER FROM THE TERRITORY BOSS.

AND I'M ONE OF THEM.
EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN BOSS TO RUN THINGS.

⇒BIP⇐
パタン
PATAN (SHUT)
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE ARE LOTS OF DIFFERENT TERRI-TORIES IN THE DEMON WORLD.


WALK THE WALK. LIKE A BOSS...
ゴト
GOTO (CLUNK)
SO, GIVEN MY POSITION, I GOTTA TALK THE TALK.

I FELT LIKE I WAS DREAMING.
I GET TO MEET...A HUMAN? A HUMAN GIRL...?
BUT AFTER THAT NEWS, I WAS BARELY ABLE TO KEEP IT COOL.
DO
DO
DO (THUMP)
AND WHAT MUSIC WOULD BE COOL TO PLAY...?
NOW, WHAT SHOULD I WEAR ...?
OKAY... WHEN I MEET HER, WHAT DO I TALK ABOUT ...!?
GURA (STUMBLE)
GASHA (CRASH)
THEY'RE ALL JUST CHEAP KNOCKOFFS, COMPLETELY LAME BY HUMAN STANDARDS ...
NOTHING I'VE BOUGHT HERE IS ANY GOOD.
DEK AND THOSE GUYS JUST DON'T GET IT...!!
IF SHE'S JAPANESE, I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR CREATING THE PLAY-STATION!
AND CELL PHONES...! AND MANGA... I WANT TO KNOW WHAT MANGA SHE LIKES...!

OOOO
(FWOOO)
オオオオ

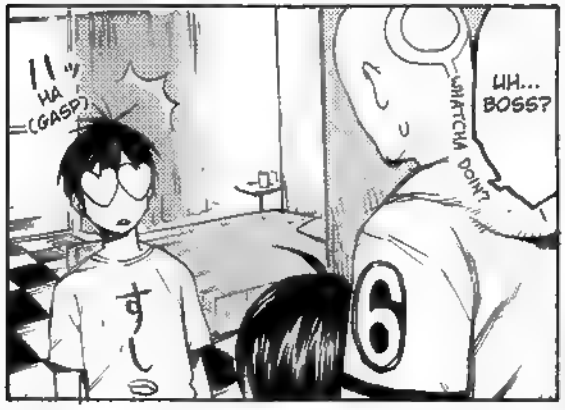
AM I OVER-DOING IT A BIT...?
.....

すし

SHIRT: SUSHI

ドンドン
DON DON
(BAM)
BOSS!
I SHOULD GET RID OF THIS, AND THIS...
GEH! AL-READY!?

ガチャ
(CLACK)
WE'RE COMIN' IN.
HEY, WAI— I'M NOT READY YET...!!


HA (GASP)
WHATCHA DOIN?
UH... BOSS?

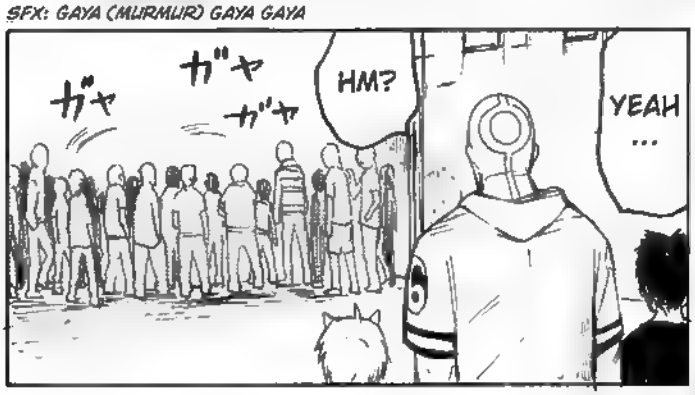
GOOD WORK, DEK... YOU CAN GET GOING.
WHA ...?
I SAID YOU CAN GET GOING! AND DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE IN HERE!!

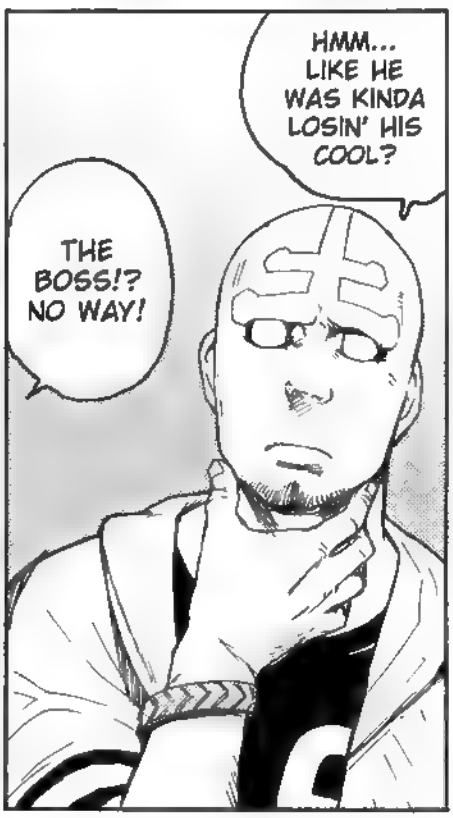
HUFF!
HUFF!
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW ...?
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)

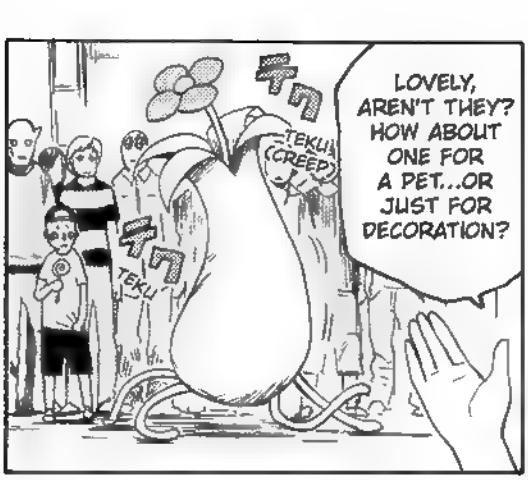
オオオオ
OOOOO (FWOOO)
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS!?

WHEN I MET HER EYES, IT FELT LIKE I WOULD BE SUCKED IN...
DO
DO (THMP)
DO
...AND THIS CRUSHING FEELING IN MY CHEST... JUST...

SFX: GAYA (MURMUR) GAYA GAYA

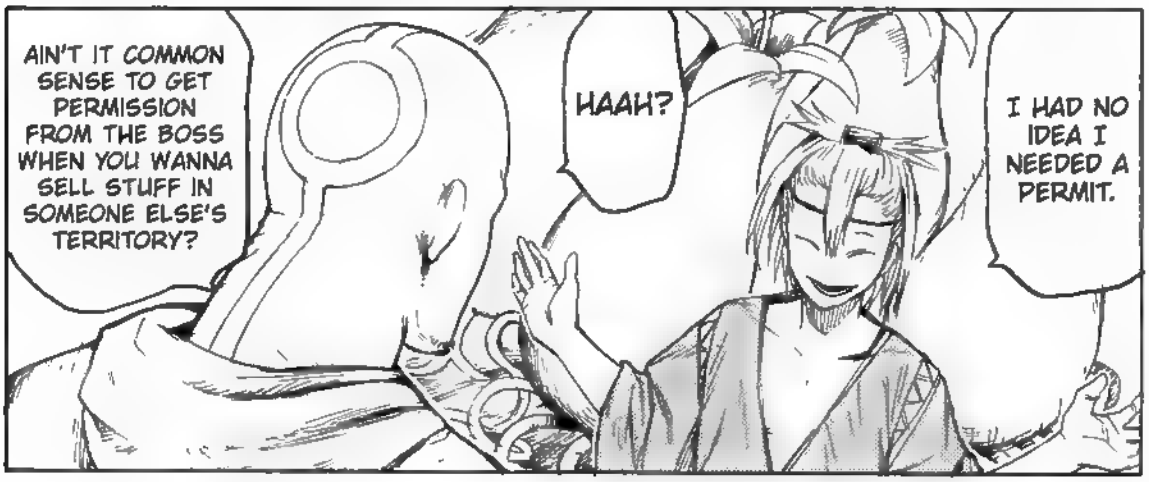


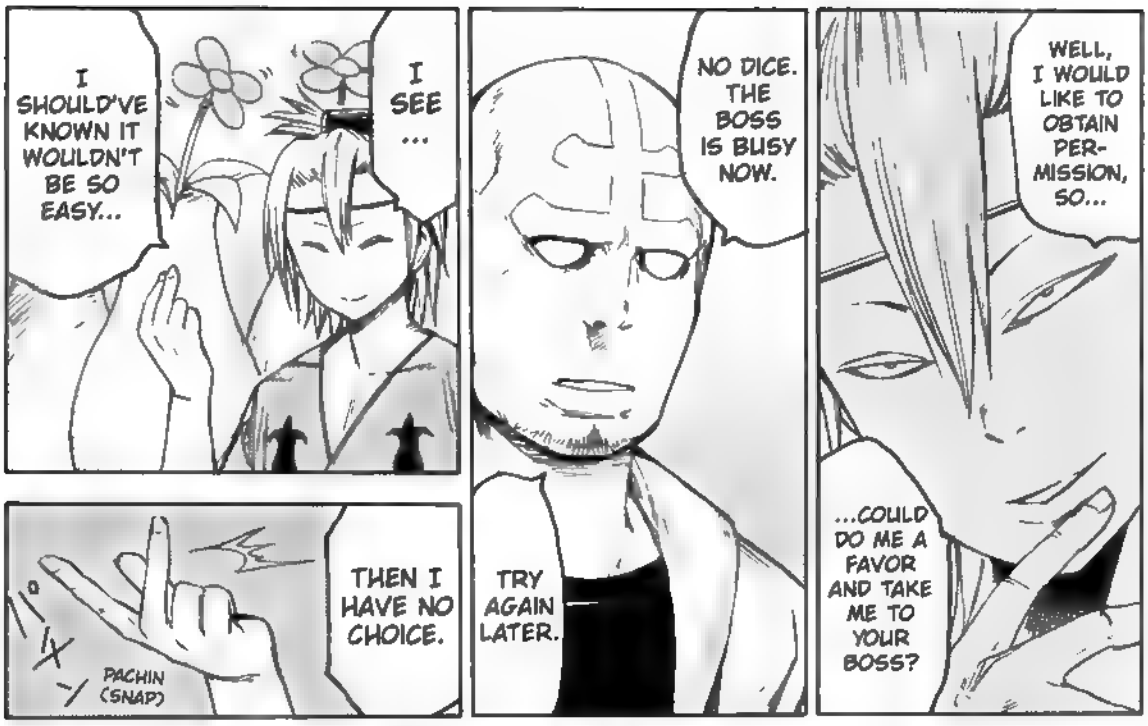




LOVELY, AREN'T THEY? HOW ABOUT ONE FOR A PET...OR JUST FOR DECORATION?
TEKU (CREEP)
TEKU

FUWA (SWAY)
FUWA
NOW, EVERYONE, PLEASE WATCH CLOSELY!
THESE PLANTS ARE QUITE RARE— THEY'RE ONLY FOUND IN DEMON WORLD SOUTH!

HEY, I AIN'T SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE.
WHO LET YOU SET UP SHOP AROUND HERE?
OH DEAR. FORGIVE ME.


I HAD NO IDEA I NEEDED A PERMIT.
HAAH?
AIN'T IT COMMON SENSE TO GET PERMISSION FROM THE BOSS WHEN YOU WANNA SELL STUFF IN SOMEONE ELSE'S TERRITORY?


I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WOULDN'T BE SO EASY...
I SEE ...
NO DICE. THE BOSS IS BUSY NOW.
TRY AGAIN LATER.
WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN PER-MISSION, SO...
...COULD DO ME A FAVOR AND TAKE ME TO YOUR BOSS?
PACHIN (SNAP)
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE.

GUBA (GWOOM)
...HAVE TO DRAW HIM OUT, BY WHATEVER MEANS NECES-SARY...
I'LL SIMPLY ...

THEN WHY DO THEY KEEP CALLING IT "FINAL"!?
Y-YEAH... IT REALLY DOES...
THE GAME HAS THAT MANY SEQUELS NOW!?
UH... GOOD QUES-TION.
REALLY!?
WHAT?
A CHAL-LENGER FOR THE TERRI-TORY?
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY LINES...
I'M GLAD I GET TO TALK NOW TOO.
BUT THIS IS GREAT. GETTING TO TALK TO A HUMAN LIKE THIS ...
YEAH, THIS IS STAZ.
I'M NOT GOING TO GET MUCH CHARACTER DEVELOP-MENT IF THIS KEEPS UP...
OH! SORRY! JUST A SECOND!
-RRRING-
UM... COULD I MAYBE ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS TOO...?

OH NO, WHAT? THE SIGNAL'S BAD! YOU'RE BREAKING UP! HELLO? CAN'T HEAR YOU!
I TOLD YOU I CAN'T!
WHAT? YAMADA'S GONNA DIE? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THAT IS!!
NAH. NOT HAPPENING. BUSY NOW.
UH-HUH... PLANTS... IS THAT SO...?
YEP.
RIGHT!
IF HE CAN GET MY HEAD, THEN HE'S THE BOSS.
PI (FLICK)
GUYS LIKE THAT SHOW UP SOMETIMES. CHAL-LENGERS WHO TRY TO TAKE DOWN A BOSS.
THAT'S THE RULES OF TERRITORY.
IDIOTS ...
BUCHI! (CLICK)
.....
UM...WASN'T THAT CALL ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT? LIKE, A CRISIS...?
SO, WHAT WERE WE SAY-ING?
OH. NAH, IT'S FINE.
.....
IT'S A LOAD OF CRAP.

I...
IT FEELS LIKE I'M STUCK IN A DREAM ...
YEAH, I'M FEELING THAT WAY MYSELF.
CAN'T BELIEVE I GET TO MEET A HUMAN...
...WHERE I AM OR HOW I GOT HERE.
ACTUALLY, I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW...
NO, I MEAN... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT ...
...I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GO AND HELP OUT YOUR FRIENDS.
URK.
THERE IT IS AGAIN ...
WHEN SHE GAZES AT ME, I...

THERE IT IS.
I CAN'T HIDE WHAT I AM...
?
HA (GASP)
AH!
ウズ"
UZU (TWITCH)

HEH HEH HEH HEH...
SO... THAT'S WHAT THIS FEELING IS...
UH... UM...
ARE YOU... OKAY?
YOU...
?

WHA —!?
YOU'RE CUTE!
I TOTALLY LOVE YOU!!
GABA (GRAB)

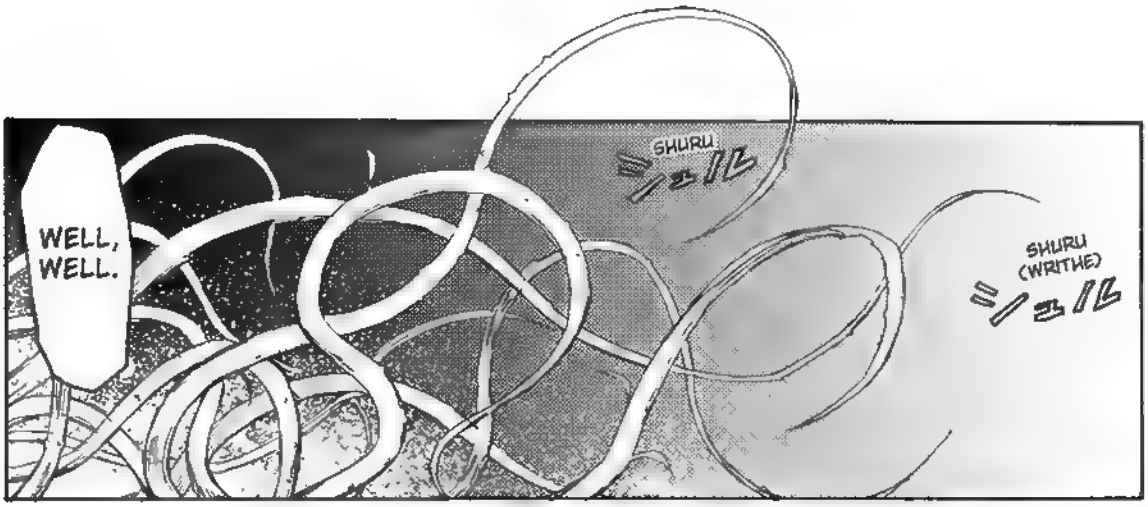
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE EVEN THE TINIEST NIBBLE OUT OF THAT SOFT, WHITE NECK OF YOURS!
I'LL DO ANY-THING YOU WANT ME TO!!
SO I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU!
IT'S THE OPPOSITE— I WANT TO PROTECT YOU! I REALLY, REALLY WANT TO PROTECT YOU!
HERE I GOOO!
BA (LEAP)
AHHHHHH!!
BECAUSE MY CHERISHED PARTY MEMBERS ARE IN DANGER!!
UH, BUT, THAT'S THE WINDOW ...
SO I'LL GO!!
DA (DASH)

I GOT ALL FLUS-TERED AND RAN OFF.
WHY? NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WOULD'VE BEEN FINE TO DRINK HER DRY...

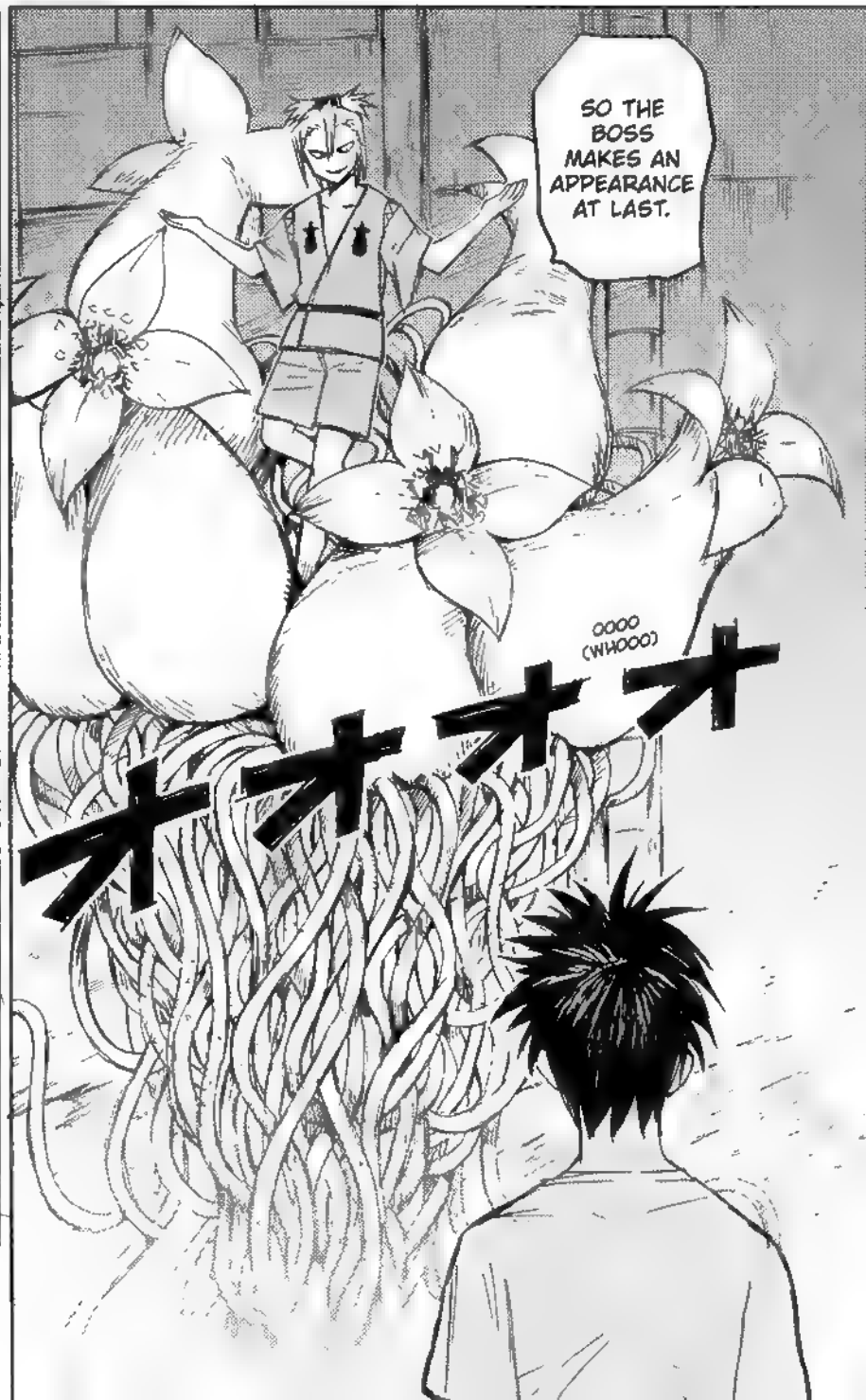
...BECAUSE THIS ISN'T THE HUMAN WORLD...
!!
ドオン
DOON (BOOM)

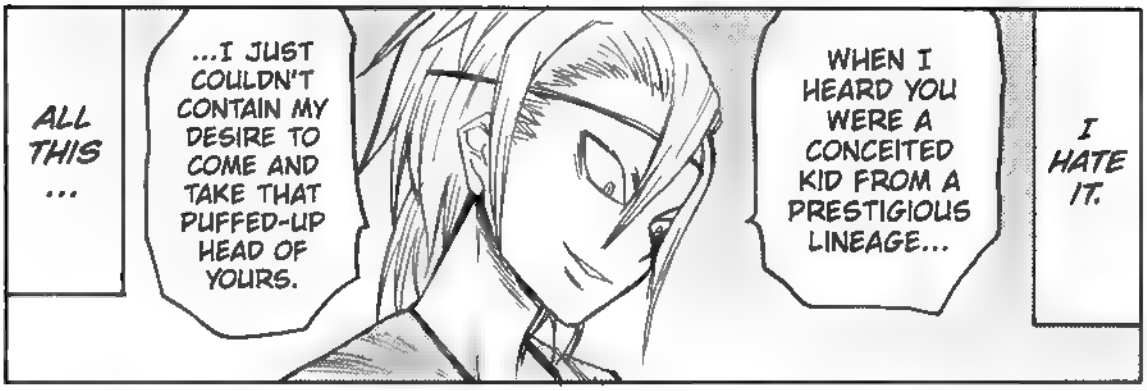
BOSS!!
すし

GOOOOO (WHOOOOSH)
ゴオオオオオ


WELL, WELL.
SHURU
シュルル
SHURU (WRITHE)
シュルル

STAZ-SAN, THE VAMPIRE.
ピク
PIKU (TWITCH)
すし
YEAH, THAT'S ME...

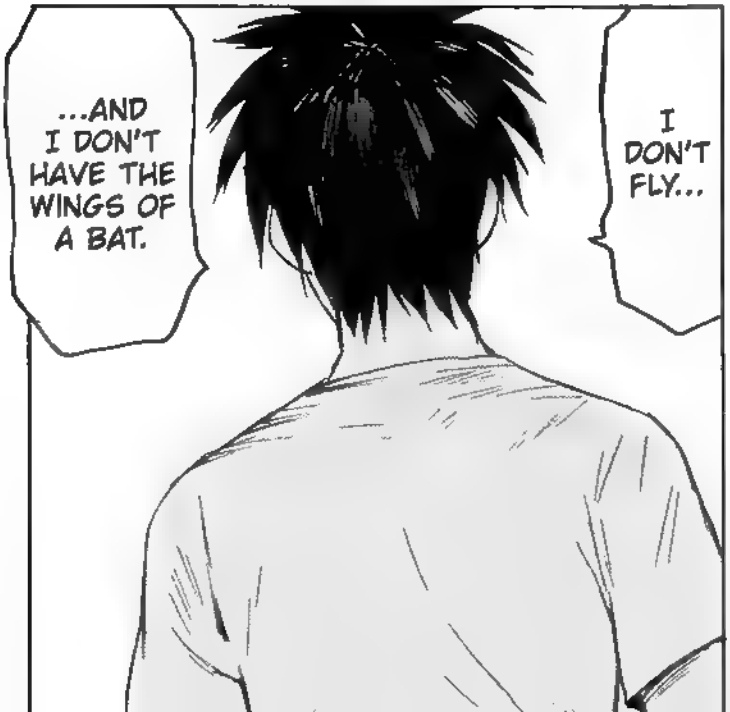

SO THE BOSS MAKES AN APPEARANCE AT LAST.
OOOO (WHOOO)
オオオオ


ALL THIS ...
...I JUST COULDN'T CONTAIN MY DESIRE TO COME AND TAKE THAT PUFFED-UP HEAD OF YOURS.
WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE A CONCEITED KID FROM A PRESTIGIOUS LINEAGE...
I HATE IT.

...AND GO AROUND IN A STUPID, OLD-FASHIONED CAPE AND ACT LIKE NOBILITY...
I'M A VAMPIRE, SO I'M SUPPOSED TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD...

DID YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?
UH, BOSS ...
ZA (STRIDE)
ZA

THEY'LL CHOP YOU UP IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE...
WATCH OUT FOR THOSE PLANTS, BOSS.
UH-HUH.


...AND I DON'T HAVE THE WINGS OF A BAT.
I DON'T FLY...

ZASHU
ZASHU (SLASH)
ZASHU
SHUBABA (FWIP)

HYA HA HA HA!
JUST COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!? YOU SOME KIND OF IDIOT!?
YAAAAY!
SHRED HIM!
GERA (CACKLE)
GERA
GERA
GERA
GERA

...I CAN EAT GARLIC, AND CROSSES DON'T SCARE ME.
BUT...

WH...
HOW?

BECAUSE I MIGHT BE A VAMPIRE, BUT...
GU (SQUEEZE)
GU
GU
GU
GU
...FIRST AND FOREMOST, I'M ME!!

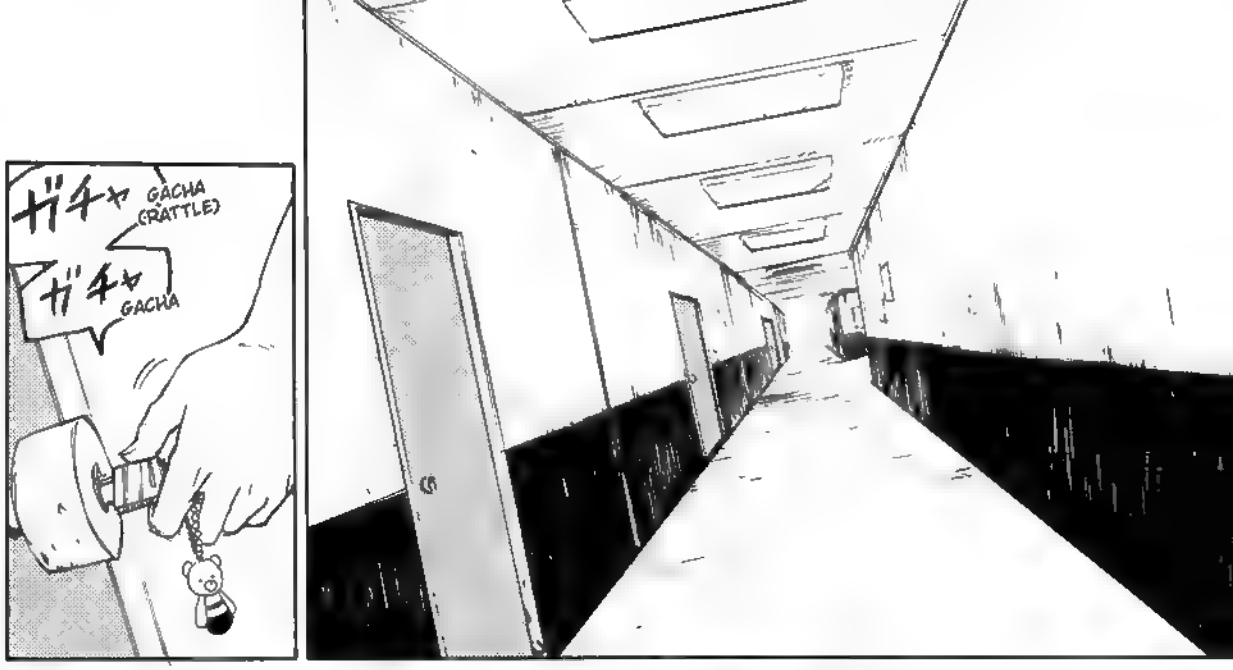
DOKUN! (BADMP)
MY... HEART ...
C... CRUSHING...
DOKUN

GAH... AAH...

GICHI
GICHI (KRRK)
GICHI
GICHI
MY... MY BODY IS... GUH...

DOKUN
(BADMP)

HE COULDA DONE THAT SOONER ...
THAT'S OUR BOSS ...
YAMADA
WAAA (CHEER)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI (CLAP)
GUCHA (SPLAT)
YOU SURE DID SHOW OFF YOUR POWER TODAY.
DID YA REALLY HAVE TO ZIP THE GUY LIKE THAT?
PAN (CLAP)
IMPRES-SIVE, BOSS.
YEP.
ANYWAY, DID YA DRINK THAT HUMAN'S BLOOD?
NAH...
...I HAVEN'T.

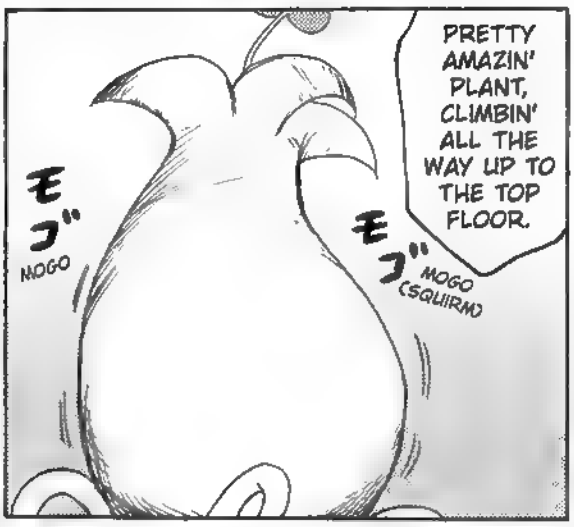

GACHA (RATTLE)
GACHA

GOOD, THE DOOR IS STILL LOCKED. SHE MUST STILL BE HERE.
.....
YOU SEEM AWFULLY HAPPY ABOUT SOMETHIN', BOSS.

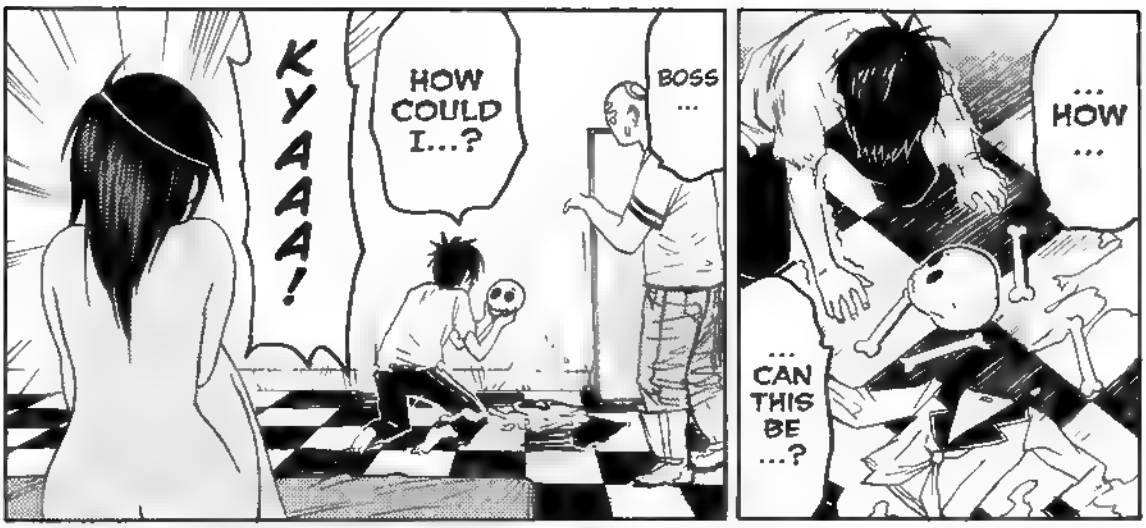
WHA...? N-NO I DON'T.
YEAH, WELL ...
...IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M A VAMPIRE AND I JUST WANT TO DRINK SOME HUMAN BLOOD...
GACHA (CLACK)
I'VE GOT PERSONAL REASONS FOR BEING INTERESTED IN HER...
I'M BACK.

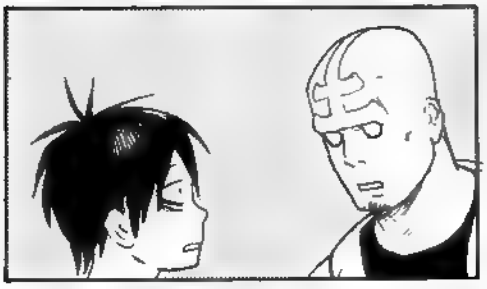
ベ
BE (SPIT)
すしっ
カラン
KARAN
KARAN (CLATTER)
カラン

THE WIN-DOW'S OPEN!
HEY!
ヒラ
HIRA
ヒラ
HIRA (FLUTTER)
GUH... HOW DID THAT THING ...?


PRETTY AMAZIN' PLANT, CLIMBIN' ALL THE WAY UP TO THE TOP FLOOR.
モゴ
MOGO
モゴ
MOGO (SQUIRM)

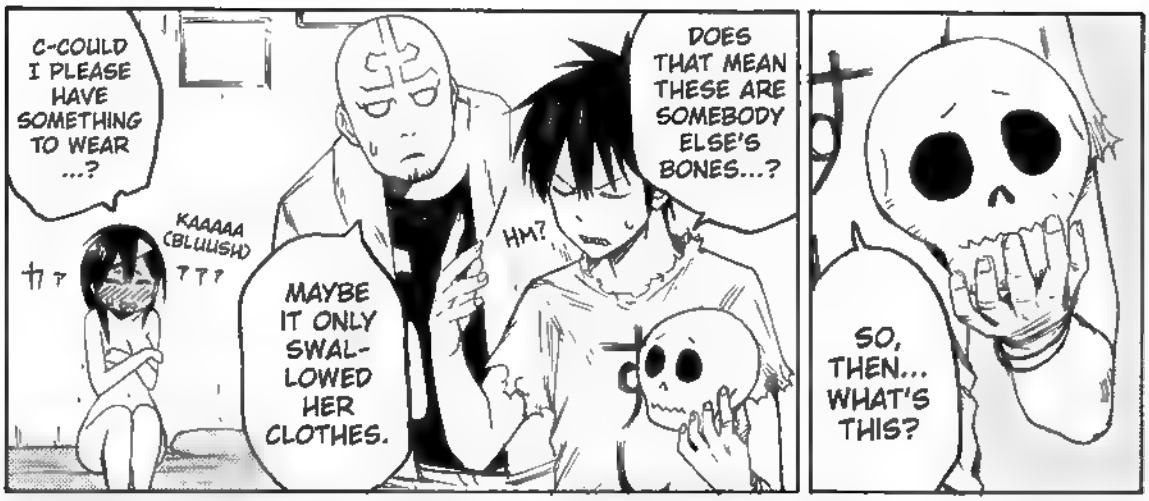
RAAAH!!
BUCHI (RIP)
BUCHI
THEY SAY YOU DON'T KNOW ...
DORO (OOZE)
...WHAT YOU'VE GOT TILL IT'S GONE...
WHAT THE ...!?


KYAAA!
HOW COULD I...?
BOSS ...
... HOW ...
... CAN THIS BE ...?



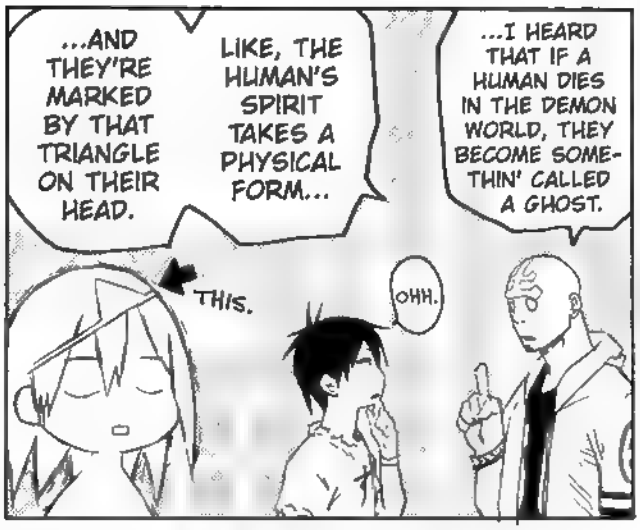
HUH?

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT HAP-PENED TO ME!?
AND WHY AM I SUDDENLY NAKED?


C-COULD I PLEASE HAVE SOMETHING TO WEAR ...?
KAAAAA (BLUUSH)
MAYBE IT ONLY SWAL-LOWED HER CLOTHES.
HM?
DOES THAT MEAN THESE ARE SOMEBODY ELSE'S BONES...?
SO, THEN... WHAT'S THIS?

WH-WHAT?
ZUI (LOOM)
EEK!
BUT EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, SOMETHING'S STILL OFF...

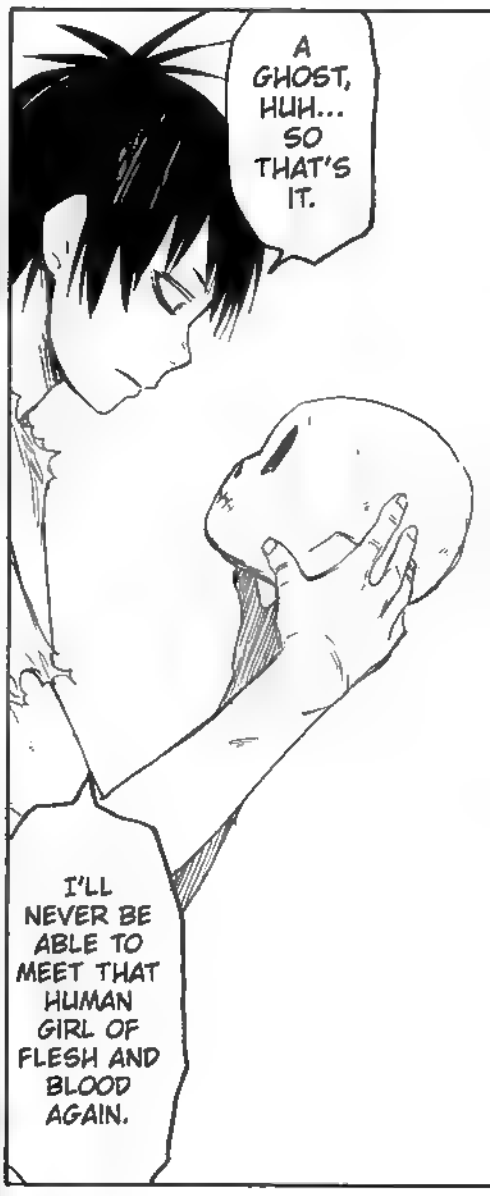
DON (BAM)
I DON'T FEEL ATTRAC-TED TO YOU AT ALL NOW...
THAT'S WEIRD ...
(STARE)


...AND THEY'RE MARKED BY THAT TRIANGLE ON THEIR HEAD.
LIKE, THE HUMAN'S SPIRIT TAKES A PHYSICAL FORM...
...I HEARD THAT IF A HUMAN DIES IN THE DEMON WORLD, THEY BECOME SOME-THIN' CALLED A GHOST.
THIS.
OHH.

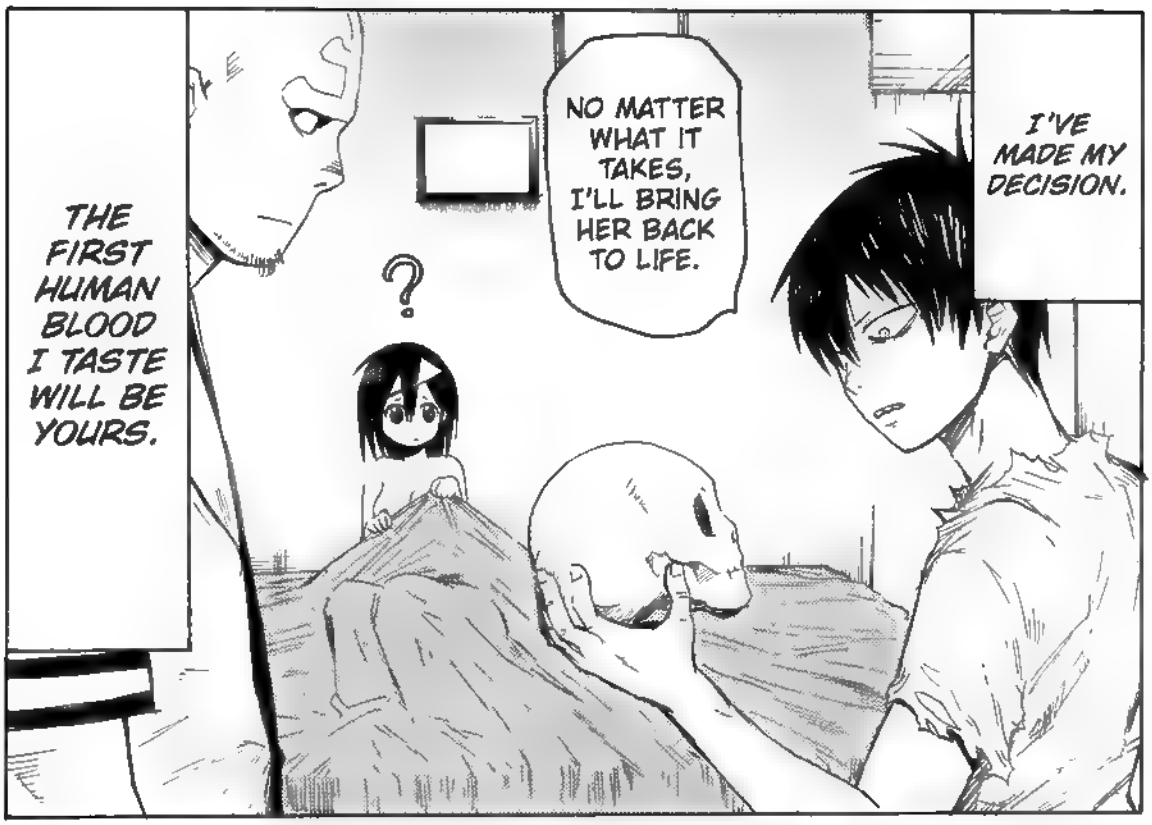
OH!
YA KNOW ...

WHY IS THAT ...?
WHITE AS A SHEET.
HMMM...

...NO.


A GHOST, HUH... SO THAT'S IT.
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MEET THAT HUMAN GIRL OF FLESH AND BLOOD AGAIN.

IT'S TOO SOON TO GIVE UP...
IF WE HAVE HER BONES AND HER SPIRIT, WE JUST HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HER BODY.



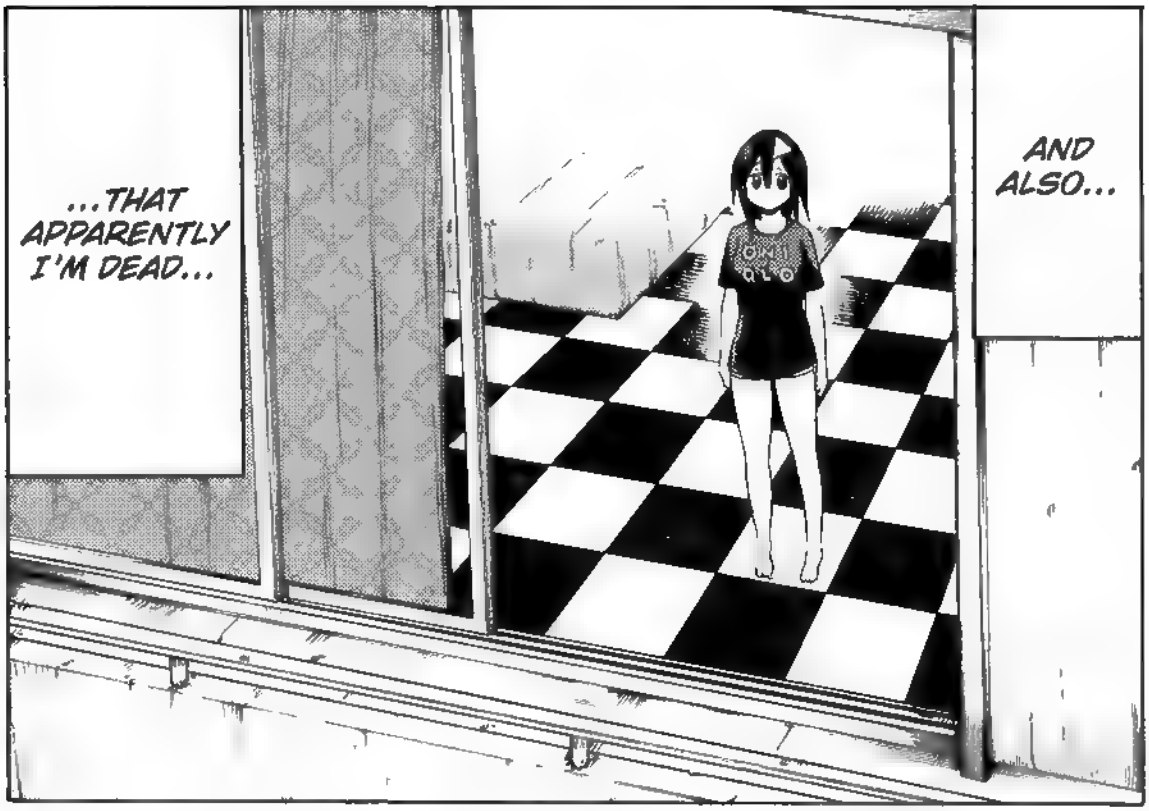
♠ To Be Continued ♠

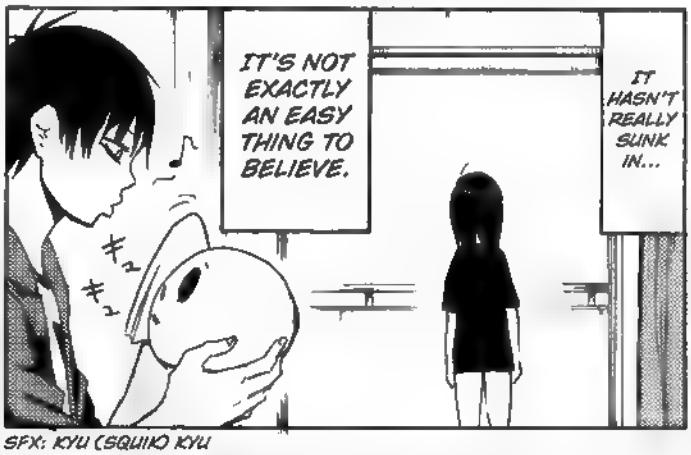
UM...
COULD
I...HAVE
THAT...

BLOOD LAD

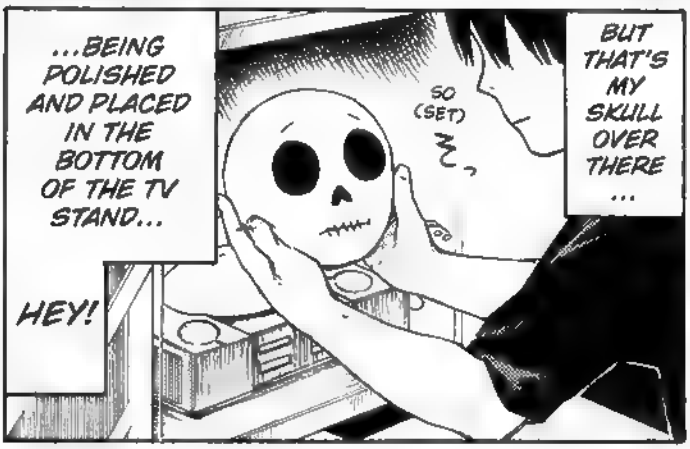
CHAPTER 2 ♠ NOKO BUFFET

ヒラヒラ
HIRA HIRA (FLUTTER)
ボー
BOOO (DAZED)
RIGHT NOW, I'M IN THE DEMON WORLD.
I ONLY JUST HEARD THAT THIS PLACE IS CALLED THE "DEMON WORLD."
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME.
HELLO.
I'M FUYUMI YANAGI.






SFX: KYU (SQUIIO KYU



BOOK: TORAEMON (NOTE: A SPOOF ON THE CLASSIC MANGA DORAEMON; TORA MEANS "TIGER.")

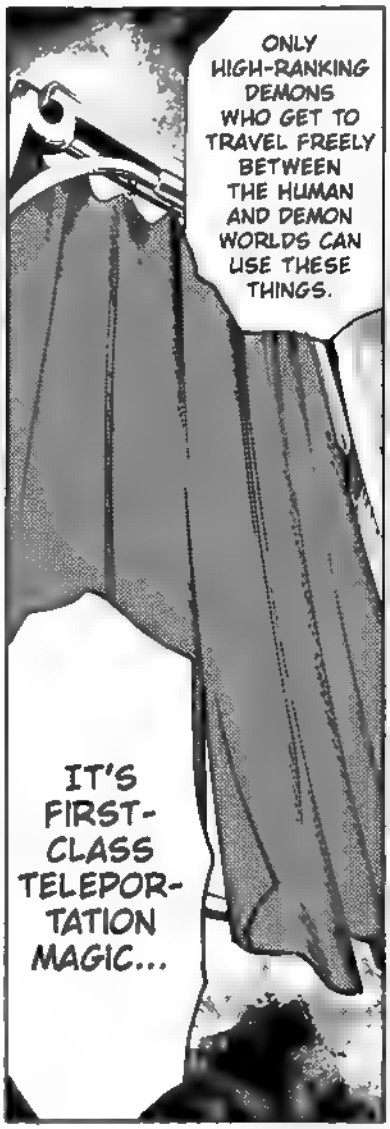
THERE ARE STORY ARCS ABOUT BRINGING PEOPLE BACK TO LIFE IN MANGA SOMETIMES.
SO I'M LOOKING AT THEM FOR REFERENCE.
...YOU WERE SAYING THAT YOU'D BRING ME BACK TO LIFE...?
SO, STAZ-SAN...
WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M READING ALL THESE BOOKS FOR?
THAT'S A MANGA...
HMM?
DID YOU REALLY MEAN IT?
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL TELL ME WE HAVE TO GATHER DRAGONBALLS OR SOMETHING...
I'LL JUST... HAVE TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ON MY OWN...
KURA (DIZZY)
THIS... IS HOPE-LESS ...
RE...
MAYBE IT'S THIS ONE.
THIS WASN'T IT, THOUGH ...
...REVIVAL THROUGH MANGA METHOD-OLOGY?

THIS IS IT!
I FOUND IT!
STAZ-SAN!
HA (GASP)
...I REMEMBERED SOMETHING!
UM, WELL, YOU SEE...
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? I WENT AND LOOKED IT UP...
IF WE GATHER THESE SEVEN BALLS ...
NO!
...IT'LL SUMMON A DRAGON!
NO. PLEASE PUT DOWN THAT MANGA NOW.
...THERE WAS...A DOOR? SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHEN I CAME HERE...
A REVIVAL SPELL!?
THAT'S WHERE THE REVIVAL SPELL IS!?

TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
DOKUN (BADMP)
NO, BUT...
...IF I GO THERE AGAIN, MAYBE I CAN GET BACK.
Y-YOU CAN'T FOOL ME...WHAT IDIOT WOULD BELIEVE THAT...?
OH... THEN I'LL GO BY MYSELF.
HUH ...?
...OH. WELL... ACTUALLY, I'M, UH, OUT OF SHAMPOO. I HAVE TO GO OUT ANYWAY.
.....
NO...
ヒク... HIKU (TWITCH)
NO WAY CAN THAT EXIST.

ズズ
HEY, WHAT THE...? IS THIS FOR REAL...?
HERE IT IS.

FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ONE...
I... I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SUCH A BIG DEAL.


ONLY HIGH-RANKING DEMONS WHO GET TO TRAVEL FREELY BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND DEMON WORLDS CAN USE THESE THINGS.
IT'S FIRST-CLASS TELEPORTATION MAGIC...

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A BLACK CURTAIN.

WAIT...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
WELL, I GUESS THIS IS IT.
PEKO (BOW)

IT IS UNHEARD OF FOR ONE OF THESE THINGS TO BE JUST SITTING OUT HERE!!
EEH!?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HUGE THIS IS, DO YOU!?
...YOU CAN JUST LEAVE OUT BY ITSELF.
BUT THIS ISN'T SOME-THING ...
YEAH, IT IS! IT SURE THE HELL IS!
YEAH!?
B-BUT IT IS RIGHT HERE...
AND IT ONLY MANIFESTS WHEN AND WHERE IT'S GOING TO BE USED.
A BLACK CURTAIN ONLY APPEARS FOR THE USER...
IT'S A VERY EXCLUSIVE ANYWHERE CURTAIN.
...THAT IS, SOMEONE WHO CAN TRAVEL BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND DEMON WORLDS.

NOTE: A REFERENCE TO DORAEMON'S ANYWHERE DOOR, WHICH OPENS UP TO ANYWHERE THE USER WANTS TO GO.

THERE ONE STANDS BEFORE US, AND YOU SAY THAT YOU CAME THROUGH IT!!
BIKU (JUMP)
AND YET!!
SO IT'S SUPPOSED TO DISAPPEAR AFTER THE USER IS DONE WITH IT...
...AND IT SHOULDN'T MATERIALIZE WITHOUT THE USER.
WHAT COULD EXPLAIN THIS MYSTERY?
I-I DON'T KNOW!
I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M HERE!
NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE BLACK CURTAIN ...
.....
...I CAN'T JUST LET YOU GO HOME, CAN I?
HUH?
WELL, ANYWAY...

I'M GOING TOO.
WITH THIS I CAN GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD! THE HUMAN WORLD!!
DON'T YOU GET IT!?
WHO GIVES A CRAP ABOUT THAT!?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHAM-POO?
THROUGH THERE, WAITING TO BECOME MINE!! ISN'T THAT RIGHT!?
...LIES BEYOND THAT CUR-TAIN!!
I'VE WANTED TO GO SO BAD!! SOOOOO BAD!!
THE DVD BOX SETS I LONG FOR! LIMITED EDITION FIGURES AND MANGA!! ANIME!! GAMES!! ALL OF IT...

HEY, AM I DRESSED OKAY?
I DON'T LOOK LIKE A HICK, DO I?
NO, YOU'RE FINE, YOU'RE FINE.
HERE I COME ...!!
OKAY! I GET IT!
I GET IT AL-READY!
WHY DID YOU SAY "YOU'RE FINE" TWICE?
OH, CALM DOWN, WILL YOU?
IF YOU WANT TO GO, JUST DO IT!!
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY WHEN IT'S NOT FINE.
...THERE'S A TEST I GOTTA RUN ON YOU FIRST. COME WITH ME.
HUH...?
A...A TEST!?
LET'S GET GOING AL-READY.
YOU DUMB-ASS!
IF THINGS WERE THAT EASY, I'D'VE JUMPED THROUGH THE CURTAIN THE SECOND I SAW IT!
I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHETHER YOU'VE GOT THE STUFF TO BE MY SIDEKICK ON MY FIRST VENTURE INTO THE HUMAN WORLD.
...WHAT'S THAT MEAN...?

'SUP?
カラン
KARAN
カラン
KARAN
(JINGLE)
サードアイ
SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR THIRD EYE
HMM
...
EMPTY AS USUAL, HUH.
TWO GINGER ALES AND THE USUAL.
I DIDN'T, OKAY?
IF YOU JUST CAME TO LOITER, GET LOST, STAZ.
WHAT?
W-WAIT, JUST A MINUTE, STAZ-SAN.

W-WELL...
UH...
BUT YOU WANTED TO HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD DRESSED LIKE THAT. NOW YOU'RE EMBARRASSED?
YOU DIDN'T SAY WE WERE GOING TO A CAFÉ...
...AND NOW I'M IN HERE... DRESSED LIKE THIS.
OHH?
I KNOW YOU'RE NERVOUS AND YOU WANT TO GO HOME...
...BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU FIRST GOT HERE.
SO IF YOU GO BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD...
...IT WON'T BE AS A HUMAN. IT'LL BE AS A DEMON.
YOU'RE A GHOST NOW...
THAT MAKES YOU ONE OF US. PART OF THE DEMON WORLD.

NO, DUMB-ASS.
...ARE YOU SAYING THAT DEMONS CAN'T WEAR PROPER CLOTHES?
.....
SO, THEN ...
HEY, YOU JUST GOT HERE, AND YOU'RE FIGHTING ALREADY?
トク
TOKU (GLUG)
トク
TOKU
GIVE IT A REST, WOULD YA!?
コト
KOTO (TNK)
SFX: KYAAA (SQUEAL)
D-DID THAT ANIMAL JUST TALK!?
AND IT POURED THE SODA!!
IT... IT'S SOOO CUUU-UTE!!
.....
H-HEY ...
STAZ, WHO IS THIS ...?
WHOOA!!
AWW, SO SOFT.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT...
NOW...
ガタ
GATA (CLATTER)

MMM!
KOTO- (CLUNK)
コト…
HOKA
HOKA
HOKA (STEAM)
ANY-WAY.
JUU (HISS)
...BUT I WAS HOPING YOU'D HAVE A LOOK FOR ME.
I THINK YOU CAN ALREADY GUESS WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, SATY-CHAN...
STOOOP !!!?
WALKIE-WALKIE!
SHE WANTS TO GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
IT'S THE GIRL OVER THERE POKING MAME-JIROU.

...WE WON'T KNOW TILL WE LOOK AND SEE!
WELL...
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHUTA (SHOOP)
シュタ...
バッ
BA (LEAP)
TA (TEP)
TA
TA
TA
COULD SHE HANDLE IT?
LET'S GIVE IT A SHOT.
WE PERCEIVE ALL.
WE REVEAL ALL.
WITH OUR THIRD EYE...

SEARCH SIGHT!!
...WE SEE THE TRUTH!
KŌO (ROOOAR)
!!
BUWA (BLAST)

IT'S PRETTY SUR-REAL, RIGHT?
THEY'RE SHINING LIKE CRAZY!
WHAT'S HAP-PENING TO THEM?
WHA...
WH-WH-WHA...!?
KOOOOOO (ROOOAR)
GOT IT!
PACHI (BLINK)
IT'S NOT A DAMN PSYCHIC READING!
WOW! HE'S TOTALLY SPOT-ON!
SO YOU USED TO BE A HUMAN, HUH?
ZUN (DONK)
THAT'S PER-VERTED.
ALSO, YOU'RE BRALESS AND YOU'RE WEARING MEN'S BOXERS.
BUT NOW YOU'RE A FRESHLY-FORMED DEMON. AND YOU COULD STILL GO EITHER WAY.

BUT LIKE I SAID, SHE'S STILL PRETTY FRESH, SO SHE MIGHT BE KINDA FRAGILE.
GOING WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
N-NO, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ...
OH, SHUT UP.
WELL? CAN SHE GO?
MMF! UNH!
THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW. THANKS.
GOT IT.
WOULDN'T REC-OMMEND STAYING TOO LONG.
WHAT!?
I'M GOING TOO.
GABA (BOLT)
NOPE.
MPFHH
UNHH
ゴロン
GORON (ROLL)
OOH... HAVEN'T DONE THAT IN A WHILE. TIRED ME OUT...
YOU GONNA SEND HER TO THE HUMAN WORLD TO GET STUFF FOR YOU?

SIGN: THIRD EYE

THIS ONE HAS ALWAYS LOOKED UP TO YOU, STAZ-SAN...
THIS ONE IS CALLED YOSHIDA. A MIMIC.
WE GOT A NEW RECRUIT, SO I WAS JUST BRINGIN' HIM TO SEE YOU.
THERE YOU ARE, BOSS.
HEY, DEK.
HI.
6
THIS IDIOT HAS THE BALLS TO SAY HE'S GOING TO THE HUMAN WORLD!
NEVER MIND THAT! HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS, DEK!?

SHIRT:

SFX: BURU (TREMBLE) BURU BURU
AND THEN WHAT? SWEET LITTLE ANIMALS LIKE ME WILL BE THE FIRST TO BE CAPTURED AND ROASTED ON A SPIIIIIT!!
ブル ブル
YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE!
WHAT D'YOU THINK'LL HAPPEN IF THE OTHER TERRITO-RIES FIND OUT!?
WOOOO (ROAAR)
IT'LL TURN INTO A HUGE DEATH-MATCH OF A TURF WAR, THAT'S WHAT!
OH!
YOU DO!?
ALL RIGHT. I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'.
ガ
GATA (CLUNK)
OKAY, OKAY ...
I'LL STEP DOWN AS BOSS.
SURE.

NO...
PERA (FLIP)
ペラ...
SO I'LL QUIT. GET SOMEONE ELSE TO BE BOSS. PROBLEM SOLVED.
...IT'S BAD FOR THE BOSS TO BE ABSENT, RIGHT?
YEAH! WHAT D'YOU GOTTA DO THAT FOR!?
NO, NO, NO, NO! YOU'RE OUTTA YOUR MIND!!
BESHI (SLAP)
BESHI
HUH? BUT...
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
HOW ARE WE GONNA PROTECT THE TERRITORY!?

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED, SO QUIT CRYIN' ABOUT IT.
UGH, WHAT'S WITH ALL THE WHINING?
IT'LL BE TROUBLE IF YOU GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD, BUT IF YOU STEP DOWN, IT'LL BE EVEN MORE TROUBLE!!
AND IF YOU QUIT, YOU'LL BE GIVIN' UP ALL THE MONEY AND STATUS YOU'VE WORKED FOR!!
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT!?
THIS ONE IS YOSHIDA, SIR...
ER... UM...
YOU. TSUBOI-KUN.
FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE THE BOSS AROUND HERE.
TON (PAT)
RIGHT. YOSHIDA-KUN.
HUH!?

!!
ボウン
BOUN
(BOOF)

I TEND TO TRANSFORM INTO WHAT I'D LIKE TO BE.
AND I ADMIRE YOU, SO WHEN YOU SAID I WAS THE BOSS... I...IT'S A REFLEX...

S-SORRY, I JUST ...
WHOA! YOU'RE ME!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU!?

THAT'S IT!
YOU CAN GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD AFTER ALL, BOSS!
HEY!
JUST STARTLED ME...
I'M REALLY SORRY!
WHAT, DEK?
.....
OF COURSE ...
...YOSHIDA-KUN CAN STICK AROUND AND PRETEND TO BE YOU.
WHILE YOU'RE GONE...
WHAT NOW?
SO NOW...
サードアイ
ズ (SIP)
ズ
...IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE WORKED IT OUT.
ALL RIGHT!! IT'S JUST LIKE KAGEMUSHA!! YOSHIDA THE MIMIC IS MY DOUBLE!!
PERFECT, DEK! GUESS THERE'S A REASON THE BOSS KEEPS YOU WRAPPED AROUND HIS FINGER!

SIGN: THIRD EYE

NOTE: KAGEMUSHA IS THE JAPANESE WORD FOR "SHADOW WARRIOR" AND THE TITLE OF A 1980 FILM BY AKIRA KUROSAWA ABOUT A DYING WARLORD WHO HIRES A PETTY CRIMINAL THAT LOOKS LIKE HIM TO PREVENT ATTACKS ON HIS CLAN.

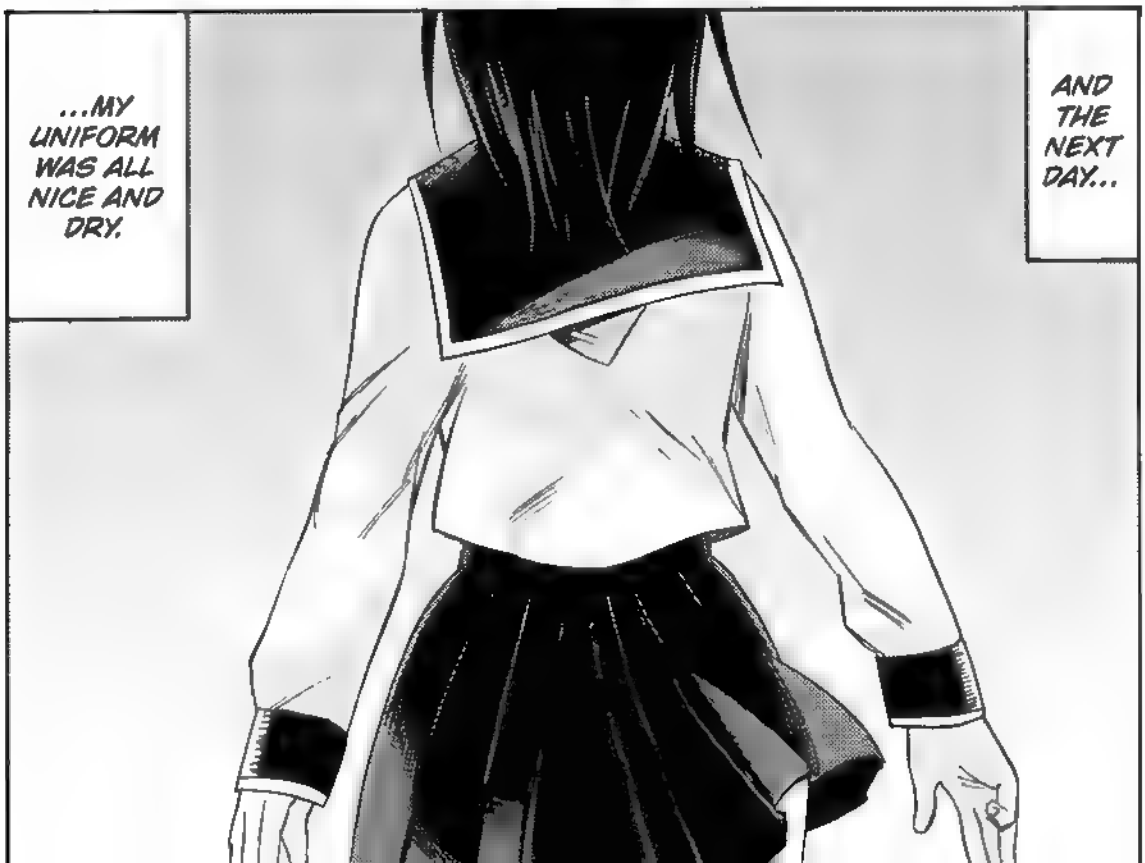
...TO DEPART FOR THE HUMAN WORLD!
...I'M FREE...
...CHEERS, I GUESS!!
AND IN HONOR OF YOSHIDA-KUN JOINING US TOO...
CHEERS!

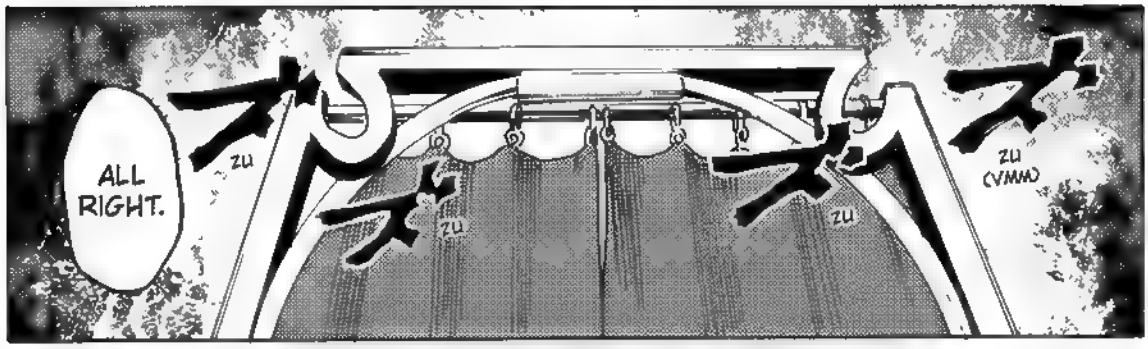
WOW... THAT'S EPIC.
GOTTA PEE.
ZABAA (POUR)
ザバァ
...OR MAYBE HE'S JUST STRINGING ME ALONG.
I WONDER IF HE'LL REALLY BRING ME BACK TO LIFE...
...IS STAZ-SAN ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
... DEK-SAN ...
HE'S SO... CAREFREE... OR MORE LIKE CARELESS...
IT'S LIKE HE'S GOT A SWITCH. WHEN IT'S FLIPPED ON, IT'S TOUGH TO STOP HIM.
.....
HUH?
IF HE WANTS SOMETHING, HE ABSOLUTELY HAS TO HAVE IT.
IF HE WANTS TO GO TO THE HUMAN WORLD, HE'LL GO, EVEN IF IT MEANS LOSING HIS POSITION.
AND WE'RE ALWAYS SUCKED INTO PLAYING ALONG WHEN THAT "ME" SWITCH IS ON.

WHEN THE BOSS SAID HE WANTED TO BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE...
AND I KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL, SO I CAN TELL YA THIS MUCH.
...THAT SWITCH WAS MORE "ON" THAN I'VE EVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
HEY.
MAN, WHAT A WATER-FALL.
HE... HE'S A WEIRD ONE, HUH?
I... I SEE.
PAKU
PAKU (CHOMP)
MOGU
MOGU (MUNCH)

NOTE: THE TSUCHINOKO IS A VENEMOUS CRYPTID FROM JAPANESE FOLKLORE RESEMBLING A THICK SNAKE.

ACTUALLY, THE TSUCHINOKO WAS REALLY TASTY.
MORE TSUCHI-NOKO!?
HOKA
HOKA (STEAM)
OOH, HERE IT IS.
...SOMEHOW FINALLY CAME TO AN END WITH A PARTY I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND.



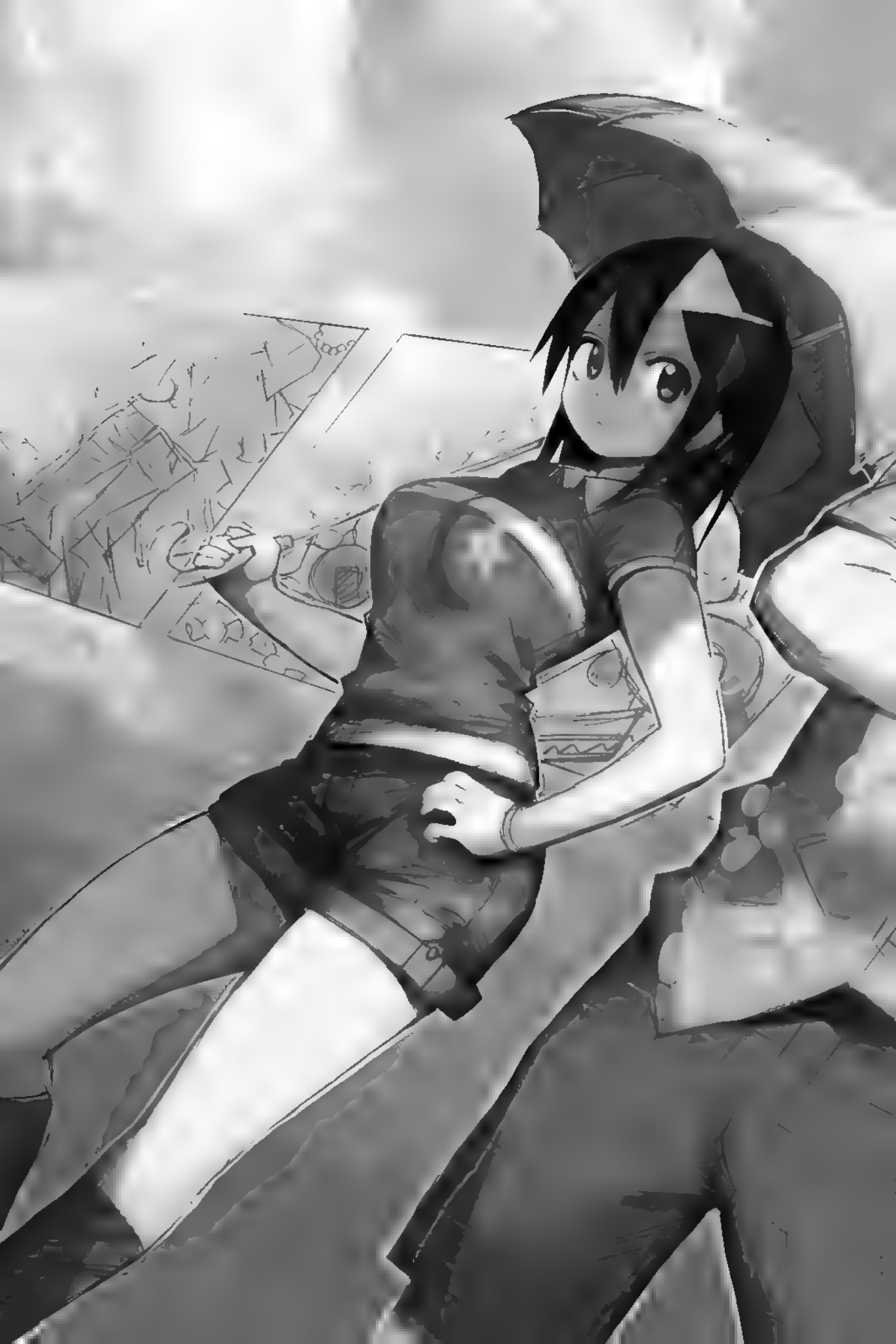


♠ To Be Continued ♠

A BLACK CURTAIN.
THIS CURTAIN ALLOWS ONE TO TRAVEL BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND DEMON WORLDS.
CHAPTER 3 ♠ BACK HOME, BUT NOT REALLY
WITH THIS MAGICAL VEIL...
...EVERY SINGLE LITTLE ONE OF MY DREAMS...
I'M GONNA OPEN IT...
...WILL COME TRUE!!
JAA (WHISK)

CHAPTER 3 ♠ BACK HOME, BUT NOT REALLY

CHAPTER 3 ♠ BACK HOME, BUT NOT REALLY



IT'S GOTTA LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS FEELING LAZY.
DON'T CLENCH YOUR TEETH! MAKE A FACE A MORON WOULD MAKE!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?

WELL, IT'S MY ROOM...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU IT LEADS HERE?
WHAAA!?
YOU LIVE HERE!?
ARE YOU IN JAIL?
E-EXCUSE ME!?
BUT THERE'S, LIKE, NOTHING IN HERE...
BECAUSE I CLEAN IT!!
I MEAN... IT HAS NO PERSON-ALITY...

I HAPPEN TO BE A STUDENT, SO I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME AT SCHOOL!
AND WHEN I COME BACK HERE, I'M MOSTLY STUDYING, SO I HAVE A NICE CLEAN ROOM WITH NO DISTRACTIONS!
SO...THEN WHAT DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME DOING IN HERE...?
MEDI-TATING?
.....
UH-HUH...
SO, THAT'S ENOUGH OF MY ROOM...
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING YOU WOULD WANT TO SEE IN HERE...
数学II
...I GUESS NOT.
NOPE. SO YOU CAN JUST WANDER AROUND WHEREVER YOU WANT NOW...
LET'S GO.
BOOK: MATHEMATICS II
YOUR SCHOOL. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.
UH...

W-WA— NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
YOU'RE GOING TO COME TO MY SCHOOL!?
SHOW YOU AROUND... YOU'RE NOT A STUDENT OR STAFF— YOU CAN'T JUST COME IN!
YOU CAN SAY I'M A TRANSFER STUDENT. THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN ANIME AND MANGA.
YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO TRANSFER IN!?
SO YOU CAN START BY SHOWING ME AROUND THERE.
WHAT? YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME AT SCHOOL, RIGHT?
OH...
HM?
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE! BESIDES, I'VE GOT A LOT GOING ON HERE...

DAD ...
THIS IS... UM...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....
FUYUMI ...!?
THE SCHOOL CALLED.
YOU HAD AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE YESTERDAY.
AND JUST WHEN I THINK, OH, SHE'S FINALLY BACK... YOU'RE PARADING AROUND MY HOME WITH SOME BOY YOU FOUND!?
NO, DAD, I...
THAT'S ONE THING, BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME HOME LAST NIGHT! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH I WORRIED ABOUT YOU!?
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING !!?

プシュ
PUSHU (SPRITZ)
EH!?
EH!?
YEP. GOOD TO SEE YOU TOO.
OFF TO SCHOOL NOW?
GOOD TO SEE YOU, STAZ-KUN.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY FATHER!?
WITH THAT "SPRITZ"!?
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO!?
OH, THAT.
OH.

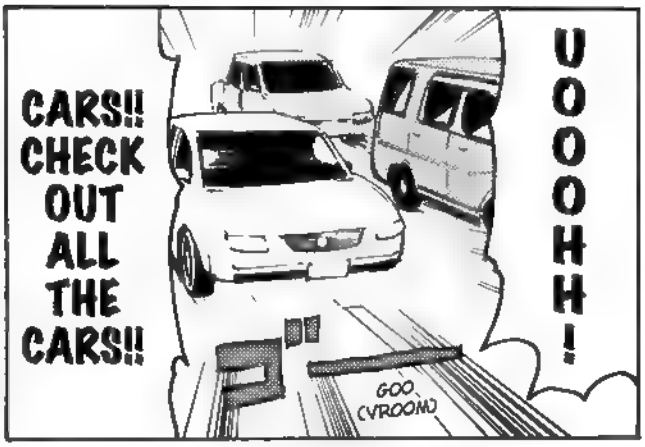
THE STUFF I SECRETE FROM HERE MAKES IT POSSIBLE.
AND THE SECRET'S IN THE FANGS.
SEE, VAM-PIRES ...
...CAN CONTROL THE HUMANS THEY'VE BITTEN.
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS...
... EXTRACTED, DILUTED WITH WATER, AND PUT IN A SPRAYER.
BLEH!
WOULD YOU STOP THAT!?
ACK!
PUSHU
PUSHU
BASICALLY, IT'S MY SPIT.
.....
OH RIGHT... BECAUSE I'M...
GYA HAH HAH HAH!
IT DOESN'T WORK ON DEMONS, SO NO WORRIES!

...NOT HUMAN ANY-MORE.
GUAAAH!
SUN-LIGHT!!
SO THAT'S SUN-LIGHT!!
MY SKIN'S GONNA FRY.
GOOD THING I WORE A HAT...
.....
I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT JUST BECAUSE THERE'S THIS TRIANGLE STUCK TO MY HEAD...
I NEVER GOT ANY SENSE THAT I'D TURNED INTO SOMETHING ELSE...

HMM. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE A HUMAN FIRST, SO YOU'RE USED TO THE ENVIRONMENT.
I GUESS NOW YOU HAVE THE OPPOSITE PROBLEM. YOU GOTTA GET USED TO BEING A DEMON.
WHAT, YOU'RE ALL QUIET NOW?
SUNLIGHT IS ROUGH FOR YOU TOO?
HUH? ...NO, I'M FINE.
SO IN THE HUMAN WORLD, DEMONS ACT COVERTLY.
LIKE NINJA, NEVER REVEALING THEIR TRUE IDENTITIES ...
...AND AVOIDING ANY BEHAVIOR THAT STANDS OUT.
UH... HUH ...?
?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW DEMONS GET AROUND IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
LISTEN. HUMANS STOPPED BEING AFRAID OF DEMONS A LONG TIME AGO.
NOT EVEN THE STRONGEST DEMON STANDS A CHANCE AGAINST THE TECHNOLOGY AND THE SHEER NUMBER OF HUMANS.

I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SO EXCITING...
STAZ-SAN, SETTLE DOWN, WOULD YOU!?
JUST...
I'M AT SCHOOL!!
PASHA
PASHA
HELL YEAH!

GATAN (GATHNK)
TRAINS ARE AWE-SOME!
GOTON (GOTHNK)
SO DAMN FAST AND COMFY!! AND ROOM TO MOVE!!


CARS!! CHECK OUT ALL THE CARS!!
GOO (VROOM)
UOOOHH!

WHOA! AND IS THAT ONE OF THOSE BIG SCOOTERS!?
PASHA
PASHA (CLICK)
SWEET!!

THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
BUT NOBODY'S FOUND OUT I'M A DEMON.
SO IT'S FINE.
YOU'VE BEEN STICKING OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB ALL MORNING!
OH... REALLY?
YOU'RE NOT BEING COVERT AT ALL!
SFX: HISO (WHISPER) HISO
SU (SWISH)
AH!
OH, IF THAT'S THE PROB-LEM...
OKAY, SO YOU TALKED ME INTO BRINGING YOU TO SCHOOL...
...BUT I REALLY CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FARTHER!
THERE ARE PEOPLE I KNOW HERE, AND IF YOU COME IN, IT'LL BE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
PUSHU (SPRITZ)
PUSHU
HELLO, EVERY-ONE.
I'M TOTALLY SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
AAAAHH...!!
JUST LIKE THAT... IT ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY.

2-D
ALL RIGHT, THEN...
...FROM PAGE 137 IN YOUR TEXTBOOK ...
YAMADA ...
...YOU CAN START READING.
...I'M BACK TO MY USUAL ROUTINE.
SITTING IN THE SAME SEAT AS ALWAYS, TAKING THE SAME CLASSES...
EXCEPT I'M A DEMON.
...APPARENTLY NO ONE THINKS THERE'S ANYTHING STRANGE ...
...ABOUT STAZ-SAN OR MYSELF.
WELL, I'M GONNA TAKE A WALK AND SPRAY THIS AROUND SOME MORE.
SO JUST DO WHAT YOU USUALLY DO.
AND WITH THAT STUFF HE SPRAYED ON MY FATHER...
CHA (CHAK)

I DON'T HAVE A NOTEBOOK OR A PEN OUT...
...I DON'T HAVE MY TEXT-BOOKS.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. NEXT...
SEN-SEI...
OH, TIME'S UP ALREADY? WELL, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.
キーン
KIIN (DING)
コーン
KOON (DONG)
カーン
KAAN (DANG)
...AND THAT'S OKAY?
HEY, FUYU-MI.
OH, NO WAY!
AND THEN ...

WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?
YOU MISSED SCHOOL.
SAKU-CHAN...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SAKURA-KO?
FUYUMI WAS TOTALLY HERE.
HUH?
SHE WAS ...?
GEEZ, THAT'S MEAN, WHAT'S WITH YOU?
NO, SHE'S RIGHT, I WASN'T HERE.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YESTERDAY THE THREE OF US STOPPED FOR TEA ON THE WAY HOME!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH HER STUPID CRAP, FUYUMI.
AH HA HA HA HA!
AND THEN, THAT'S WHEN ...
OH YEAH! RIGHT, NOW I REMEMBER!
HUH? SO NOW I WAS HERE...?

...THAT ISN'T ME...
WAIT! SAKU-CHAN, MAYU-CHAN...
IT CAN EVEN... MESS WITH PEOPLE'S MEMORIES ...?
ZOK..! (SHIVER)
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I'M HERE OR NOT...
...DOES THAT MEAN I REALLY AM A GHOST...?
IF EVERY-ONE ELSE IS MAKING UP MY EXIS-TENCE ...
...THEN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE REAL ME...?
HAVING FUN?

BOO!

GUSHI (RUB)
ぐし
THIS IS AWFUL ...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

WHAT'RE YOU CRYING FOR?

BUT YOU JUST KEEP ON SPRITZ-SPRITZING EVERYONE...
UHHHK...
IF I'D JUST TOLD MY DAD AND MY FRIENDS, THEY MIGHT HAVE UNDERSTOOD!
UHHHK!
WHAT WERE YOU GONNA TELL THEM?
THEY'D UNDER-STAND?
"BUT IT'S FINE! JUST ACT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, OKAY?" ☆
SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT? HUH?
"SO I KINDA JUST FELL INTO THE DEMON WORLD, AND NOW I'M A GHOST!

YOU'RE SO CLUE-LESS!
WHEN'S IT GONNA GET THROUGH YOUR HEAD THAT YOU'RE A DEMON NOW!?
...BUT THEN...
...WHY DO YOU HAVE TO INVOLVE EVERYONE ELSE JUST TO MAKE ME UNDERSTAND THAT?
PLEASE... JUST MAKE THEM GO BACK TO NORMAL...
...I GET IT NOW, OKAY?

OH. HUH.
.....

NOW WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO GHOSTS START DIS-APPEARING FROM THE FEET UP.

I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE...
YEAH, AND YOU'RE SERIOUSLY DISAP-PEARING.

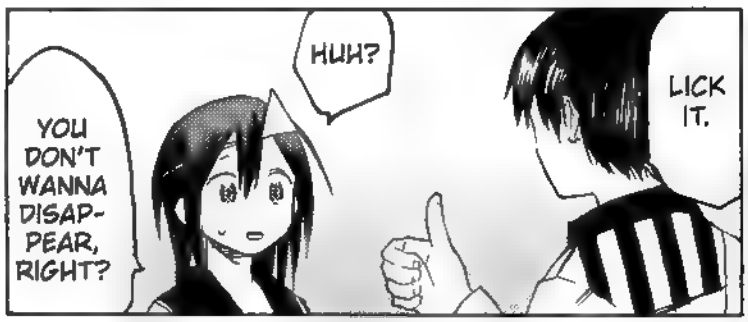
IF IT'S THE SAME TO THEM WHETHER I'M HERE OR NOT...
...I'D RATHER JUST DISAPPEAR!

TAKE A LOOK.
!!

WITHOUT A CERTAIN LEVEL OF TOLERANCE ...
...DEMONS CAN'T MAINTAIN THEIR EXISTENCE IN THE HUMAN WORLD.
EH!? EH ...? NO WAY ...! WHY ...?
YOU GET IT NOW, DEMON NOOB?
BUT THIS SOON!?
OH...I GUESS ...
BUT THEY SAID IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD TO STAY LONG, RIGHT?
B-BUT THEY SAID THERE WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM ...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS LOOKING INTO BEFORE WE CAME.
OH NO OH NO!
YEAH, WITH GETTING HERE.
THAT WAS JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH, YOU KNOW? OR SOMETHING...?
BUT, BUT, WAIT...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
DIDN'T YOU WANNA DISAPPEAR?
BA
BA
BA
BA (FLAIL)
AAAAAAH!

KOKU KOKU (NOD)
コク コク
OKAY, SO YOU DON'T WANT TO DISAPPEAR?
WELL, OKAY THEN.
YOUR BODY CAN'T SURVIVE IN THE HUMAN WORLD NOW.
NO WAY YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE LIFE YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN THAT CONDITION.
YOU KNOW ...
GARI (BITE)
...I WASN'T DOIN' ANY OF THAT TO BE MEAN.
SO I'M JUST SMOOTH-ING THINGS OVER...
DARI (DRIP)
...FOR WHEN YOU DO GET TO GO BACK.
HUH ...?
YOU MEAN...

TO A WORLD WHERE NOBODY HAS ANY IDEA THAT YOU DIED.
WHEN YOU'RE ALIVE AGAIN AS A HUMAN, YOU CAN GO BACK, SIMPLE.


HUH?
LICK IT.
YOU DON'T WANNA DISAP-PEAR, RIGHT?

... STAZ-SAN ...

WHA... WHY?
I DID THAT ON PURPOSE, STUPID.
Y-YOU'RE BLEED-ING!
C'MON, JUST DO IT.

...I'LL BE YOUR BLOOD BANK.

4

CHU (SUCK)

UNTIL I BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE...

UNTIL I BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE...

...I'LL BE YOUR BLOOD BANK.
4
CHU (SUCK).

UHH...
トクン..
TOKUN (BADHP)
トクン...
TOKUN
MY HEAD IS SPINNING...
トロ～
TORO (WOOZY)
HOW'S THAT?
I FEEL WARM ALL OVER... REALLY HOT...
OH.
I HAVE HANDS.
GUESS IT'S A BIT OVERSTIM-ULATING...

SO WITH THAT, I DREW OUT MY OWN FIRST DRIP—THE POWER I HAVE AS A HIGH-LEVEL DEMON.
THOUGH THAT AMOUNT OF MAGIC'S WASTED ON A COMPLETE NEWBIE LIKE YOU...
POO (DAZE)
MY FANGS AREN'T ONLY GOOD FOR MANIPU-LATING HUMANS.
THEY ALSO HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DRAW OUT HIGHLY CONCENTRATED MAGIC.
MY FACE ISH ALL HOT...
JUU (SIZZLE)
...NICE, COOL DESK.
I'M HEEERE!
DAMMIT, CAN YOU EVEN HEAR...?
...MAN, I JUST...
JUST STAY LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE.
...UH-HUH.

WHAT?
I'M JUST GOING TO LET HER GO BACK TO THE HUMAN WORLD AFTER I BRING HER BACK TO LIFE?
...WENT AND TOLD HER A BUNCH OF CRAP SHE WANTED TO HEAR.
ANYWAY, THERE'RE HUMANS EVERY-WHERE...
WHAT A JOKE.
SOON AS HER BLOOD'S FLOWING AGAIN, I'LL SUCK HER DRY AS A MUMMY.
...BUT IT'S WEIRD...EVEN THOUGH I'M IN A PLACE WHERE ALL THESE HEALTHY YOUNG HUMANS ARE GATHERED...
...I HAVEN'T FELT THAT URGE LIKE I DID WITH HER.

OOPS ...
OR I'LL TURN INTO A MUMMY FIRST...
I BETTER HURRY UP AND FIND A REVIVAL SPELL...
FURA (STAGGER)
SO THE HUMAN FUYUMI IS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO ME AFTER ALL...
HEH HEH ...
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING ...
CAN'T TURN BACK NOW...
I WILL BRING FUYUMI YANAGI BACK TO LIFE.

IT'S NOT YOU!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S NOT TOTALLY FINE...
IF IT'S ABOUT ME, I'M FINE NOW! SEE?
BUN BUN (SWING)
WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE DEMON WORLD? WHAT FOR?
WHAA!?
BUT FIRST ...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?
OH... WAIT ...
SAME THING.
IF YOUR M.P. ISN'T FULLY CHARGED BEFORE A BOSS FIGHT, YOU GO BACK TO THE INN, RIGHT?
...NONE OTHER THAN AKIHA-BARA!!
THE CYBERBRAIN METROPOLIS I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF!!
I MUST BE FULLY PREPARED WITH ALL STATS MAXED OUT TO FACE IT!!
HEY, YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING. THE BOSS I'LL BE FACING IS...
LIKE, WITH TERRI-TORY AND STUFF ...!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A BOSS FIGHT?

SO NO SPOILERS!
...IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT'S THE REASON I CAME TO THE HUMAN WORLD.
THE TRUTH IS...
.....

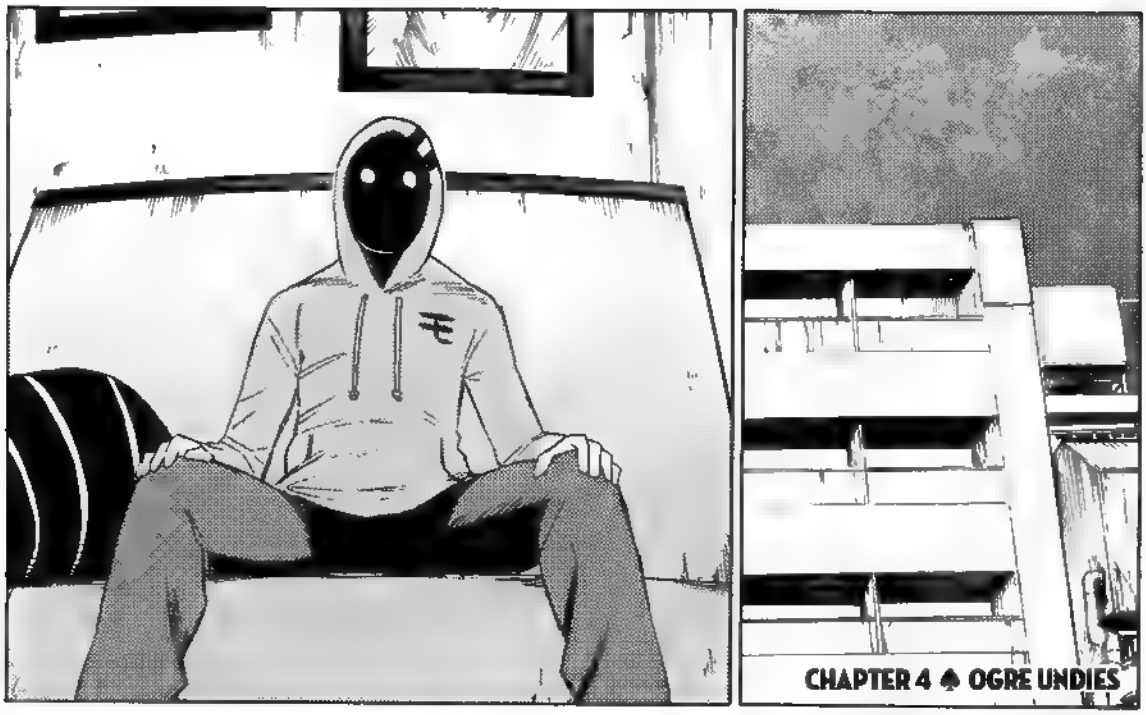
...I DON'T KNOW.
OH... SHE DIED?
SHE'S NOT AROUND ...
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S YOUR MOM?

ガチャ
GACHA (CLICK)
OH... MAYBE ...
YEAH, YOU ARE. JUST LIKE YOU LIVE IN THIS JAIL CELL THAT DOESN'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE A GIRL'S ROOM.
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT ...?
YOU GET ALL WORKED UP OVER OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS, BUT YOU'RE KINDA "WHATEVER" ABOUT STUFF IN YOUR OWN LIFE...
SHE LEFT BEFORE I CAN REMEMBER ANYTHING.
I ASKED MY FATHER, BUT HE DIDN'T REALLY GIVE ME MUCH OF AN ANSWER...

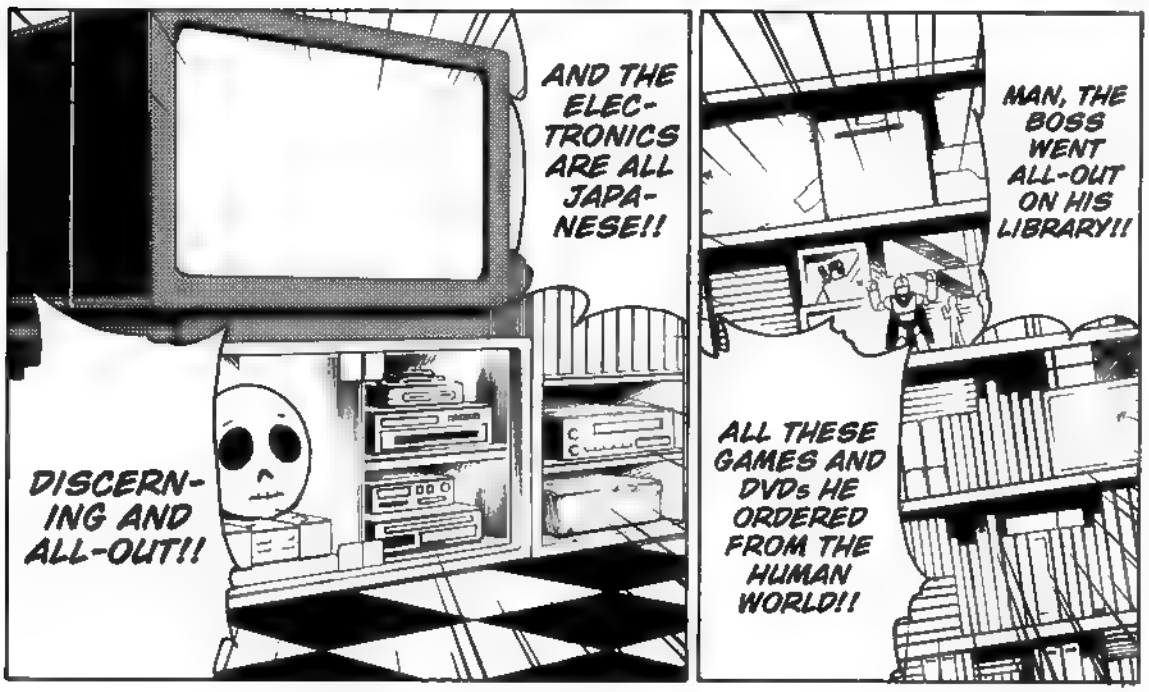
♠ To Be Continued ♠

NAPPING
ZZZ
READING
I THINK YOU GOT THE ANIME OVER THERE.
WHOA. CHECK THAT OUT...
MANGA: AKIRA

BLOOD LAD


CHAPTER 4 ♠ OGRE UNDIES

FOR NOW, THIS IS ACTUALLY MY ROOM.
HUH...I GUESS IT'S LIKE HOUSE-SITTING, BUT NOW I'M THE BOSS...


AND THE ELEC-TRONICS ARE ALL JAPA-NESE!!
DISCERN-ING AND ALL-OUT!!
MAN, THE BOSS WENT ALL-OUT ON HIS LIBRARY!!
ALL THESE GAMES AND DVDs HE ORDERED FROM THE HUMAN WORLD!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', YOSHI-DA?
.....
GORO (ROLL)
ゴロンゴロ
GORO
AND THERE'S THIS BED THAT SMELLS A LITTLE LIKE THE BOSS... ALL-OUT... HOO...
NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, GOT IT?
ROGER.
...IT'S FINE TO BE EXCITED AND ALL, BUT YOU GOTTA STAY TRANS-FORMED...
OH...
Y'KNOW ...
WAH!! DEK-SAN!!
BA (JUMP)
PASHI (CATCH)
BEE
...BUT YA NEVER KNOW WHO COULD BE WATCHIN'.
SHU (TOSS)
WELL, NOBODY ELSE BESIDES ME IS GONNA COME IN HERE...
KASHU (PSHHT)
HERE YA GO.

# CHAPTER 4 ♠ OGRE UNDIES

AH-HAH!
SO THAT'S HOW THE BOSS WAS ABLE TO COME HERE.
NICE. GOT ME A GOOD BIT OF INTEL HERE.
...!!
LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM! NOBODY'LL CATCH ON ANYTIME SOON!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU...?
NOBODY BUT ME, THAT IS! ☆

ME?
I'M HYDRA-BELL.
THE OWNER OF THIS HERE BLACK CURTAIN.
WHICH WOULD MAKE ME A TOP-LEVEL TELE-PORTER.
THOUGHT THIS CURTAIN WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
...I GET IT...
SO IT WAS A TRAP, HUH...?
CALL ME BELL-CHAN!
KYUPI (P-WHIP)
キュピ★
.....

AND WITH THE GULLIBLE LITTLE BOSS ABSENT FROM THE DEMON WORLD...
...YOU'LL MOVE IN ON MY TERRI-TORY.
YOU LEFT THE BLACK CURTAIN OUT ON PURPOSE ...
...TO LURE ME INTO THE HUMAN WORLD.
TIME TO EAT!
WAS THAT YOUR CUN-NING PLAN !?
.....
FREE ...
MUGU むぐ MUGU (CHEW)
NOW THERE'S A NICE WORD.
YOU'RE WAY TOO FREE AND EASY ABOUT THIS...
IS THAT... SUPPOSED TO BE...A RICE BALL?
WHAT'S UP?
もぐ MOGU (MUNCH)
もぐ MOGU
SORRY, WASN'T LISTEN-ING.

FOR I AM A SPACE TRAVEL-ER!!
...AND I'M FREE TO GO ANYWHERE I CHOOSE!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M FREE TO CREATE SPACE ANYWHERE I CHOOSE ...
BABAAAN (TA-DAAA!)
NO ONE CAN CATCH ME!!
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO...?
AND MY FAVORITE PASTIME IS TREA-SURE HUNT-ING!!
I'M FREE TO COME AND GO AS I PLEASE BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND DEMON WORLDS IN SEARCH OF TREASURE!!
BUT YOU TWO ...!!
BIKU (JUMP)
DON
Y-YES !?

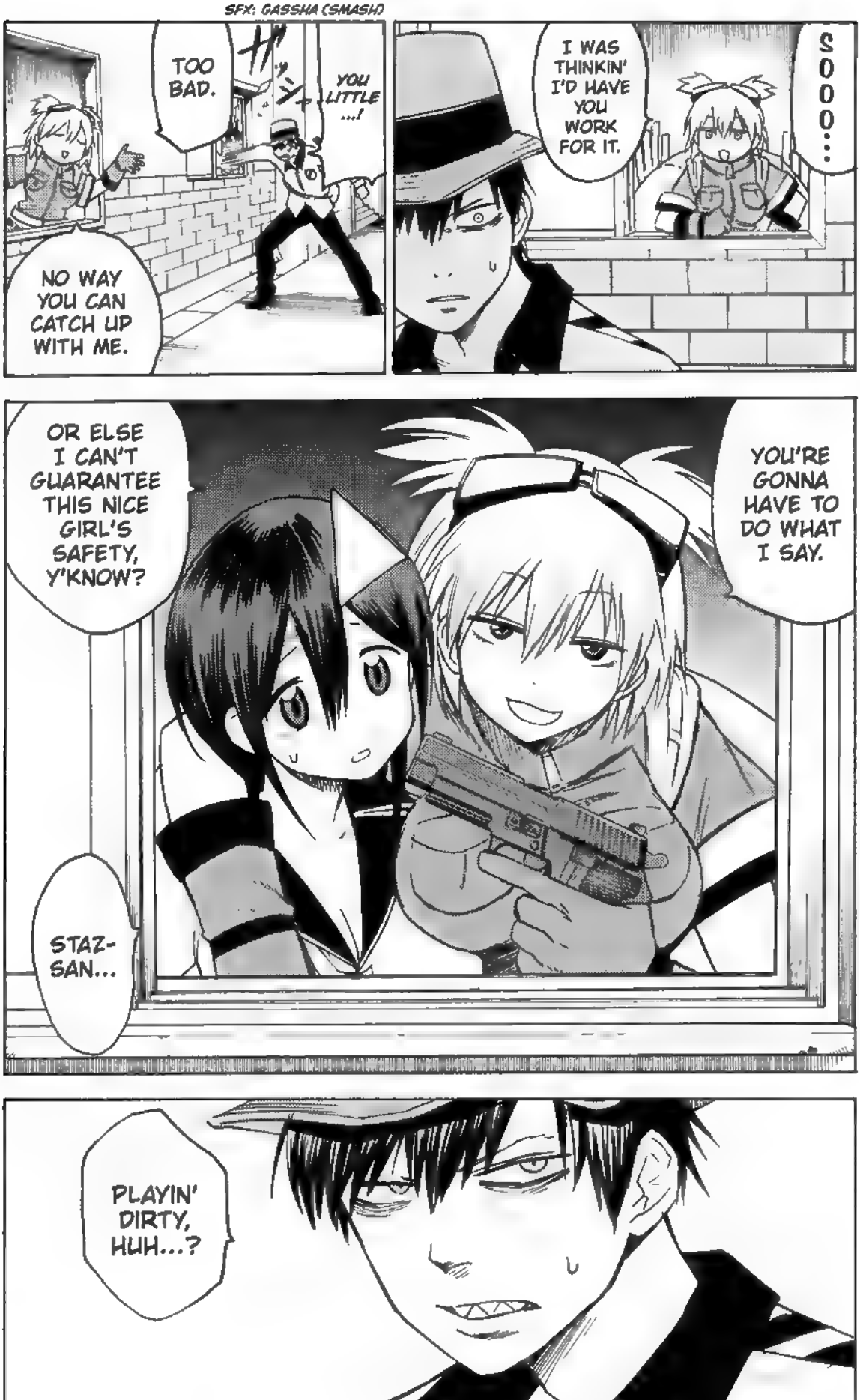
I WONDER WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, SNEAKING AROUND...
...USING MY MODE OF FREE TRANS-PORTATION WITHOUT PERMISSION?
'SCUSE ME?
I DIDN'T GO THROUGH IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO JUST LEFT IT THERE!!
SO IT'S MY FAULT NOW?
YOU THINK I'M THE ONE WHO JUST LEFT MY CURTAIN HERE UNAT-TENDED?
I HAVE USED THE CURTAIN HERE BEFORE...
...BUT I DEFINITELY PUT IT AWAY PROPERLY AFTER.

YOU PROBABLY JUST FORGOT TO CLOSE IT.
...A MYS-TERY.
SO HOW IT'S JUST SITTING OUT AGAIN IS...
WELL THEN, MAYBE I'LL JUST HAVE TO SELL THIS INTEL I CAME ACROSS, THAT A CERTAIN BOSS LEFT HIS TERRITORY UNATTENDED...
YOU PIECE OF...
...IF YOU WANNA USE THE CURTAIN YOU GOTTA PAY A TOLL.
WELL, ANYWAY. THE POINT IS...
THIRTY MILLION, HARD CASH.
LIKE HELL WE HAVE THAT KINDA MONEY!!
AND THERE'S TWO OF YOU SO THAT'LL BE SIXTY MIL.
WHAT!? YOU'RE EX-TORT-ING!?
WHY NOT? HARD TIMES?

DON'T YOU EVEN TH—
JUUUST KIDDING! ☆
HUH?
PEI (TOSS)
ペイッ
ストーン
SUTON (SHOOMP)
KARAN
カラン
KARAN (CLATTER)
カラン

...I CAN MAKE SOMEONE DISAPPEAR.
EVEN WITH JUST A SIMPLE FRAME ...
OH NO! OH NO!
DIS... DISAP ...!?
ST... ST- ST... STAZ- SAN...
WOO- HOO-HOO! GOT 'IM!
WELL, I DIDN'T REALLY MAKE HIM DISAPPEAR, Y'KNOW... JUST MOVED HIM...
...TO SOMEWHERE ELSE...'COS I HAD A GOOD IDEA. ☆
YEEEES! AND NOW I'LL MAKE YOU DISAP- PEAR!
OH ... OH ...
HEY, YOU COULD TRY TO RUN...
DUNDER- HEAD...
WA WA WA WA!

LOOKS LIKE I'M STILL IN THE HUMAN WORLD, BUT...
WHERE AM I...?
BA (WHIP)
...FROM GOING BACK TO THE DEMON WORLD SO SHE CAN SELL HER INTEL?
THAT BROAD... IS SHE GONNA KEEP ME ...
AU CONTRAIRE!☆ THAT LITTLE TIDBIT'D BARELY GET ME SOME POCKET CHANGE.


SFX: GASSHA (SMASH)
NO WAY YOU CAN CATCH UP WITH ME.
TOO BAD.
YOU LITTLE ...!
SOOO...
I WAS THINKIN' I'D HAVE YOU WORK FOR IT.
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY.
OR ELSE I CAN'T GUARANTEE THIS NICE GIRL'S SAFETY, Y'KNOW?
STAZ-SAN...
PLAYIN' DIRTY, HUH...?

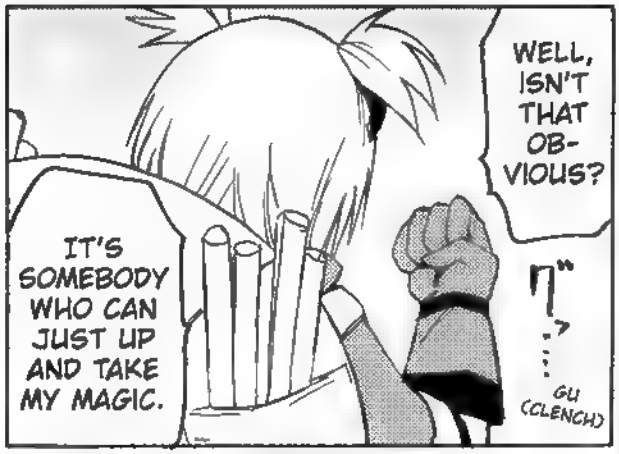
THAT BUILDING THERE.
NII (GRIND)
SEE THE STAIRS GOING UNDER-GROUND?
... SO?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
"SOME-THING"?
.....
WHA— HEY!
FU (VANISH)
YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU GET THERE.
THAT'S IT!?
NOW, YOU'RE GONNA GO DOWN THOSE STAIRS...
...AND BRING ME BACK A CERTAIN SOME-THING.

THIS IS GETTING TO BE A PAIN IN THE ASS ...
...UGH.
鬼
DO
DO (OMM)
DOOR: OGRE
WHAT THE HELL...
...IS EVEN DOWN HERE?

.....
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?
YOU MAKE BETTER LEVERAGE THAN HIS TERRITORY!
AS I SUS-PECTED!
AH HA HA HA!
THEN I'LL LET YOU IN ON A SECRET.
YOU WANNA KNOW?
FOOM!
NOW, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN US GIRLS.
NGH NH NH NH!
NNNGH!
MY BLACK CURTAIN IS ACTU-ALLY...

YOU DON'T GET IT?
HEH HEH HEH.
BECAUSE YOU FORGOT TO PUT IT AWAY, RIGHT?
REMEMBER HOW THE CURTAIN I WAS SURE I'D PUT AWAY WAS JUST HANGING OUT?
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
WHA ...?
ドサ
DOSA (THUD)
BWAH!
SERIOUSLY...
...SOMEBODY GOT IT BACK OUT WHEN IT SHOULD'VE BEEN PUT AWAY.
NOPE.
THE REAL-ITY IS...
.....
THEN WHO...?
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT OUT, SO I CAN'T PUT IT AWAY.
THE FACT THAT THE CURTAIN WON'T CLOSE WHEN I TELL IT TO IS THE PROOF.

WH...
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU FIND THEM?
GOKU (GULP)
ゴ
ク…


WELL, ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?
IT'S SOMEBODY WHO CAN JUST UP AND TAKE MY MAGIC.
ク
…?
GU (CLENCH)

HE'S GOTTA BE RIDICULOUSLY POWERFUL …
…SO IF SOMEBODY THAT POWERFUL EXISTS, I'LL FIND HIM…

THAT'S WHO I'M LOOKIN' FOR.
SOME SMART-ASS WHO GOES AROUND STEALIN' OTHER PEOPLE'S MAGIC…
…AND CAUSIN' A BUNCH OF TROUBLE FOR ME.

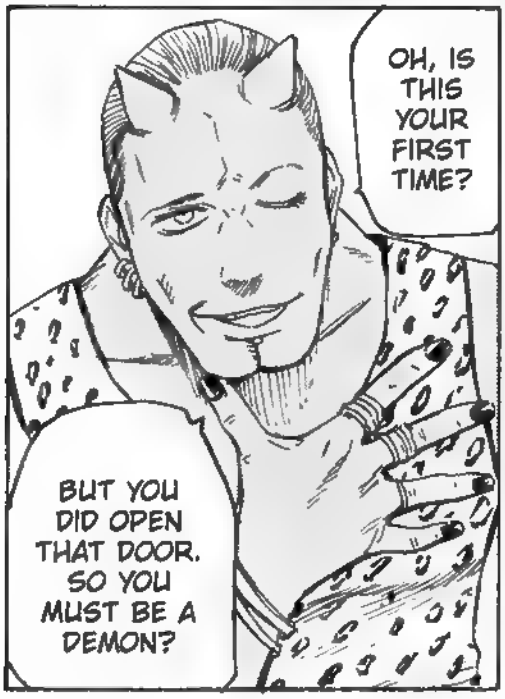
...AND MAKE HIM...
BI (FWIP)
ビッ
...MY LOVER-BOY! ♡

WHA...? THEN...SO WHERE DID YOU SEND STAZ-SAN...?

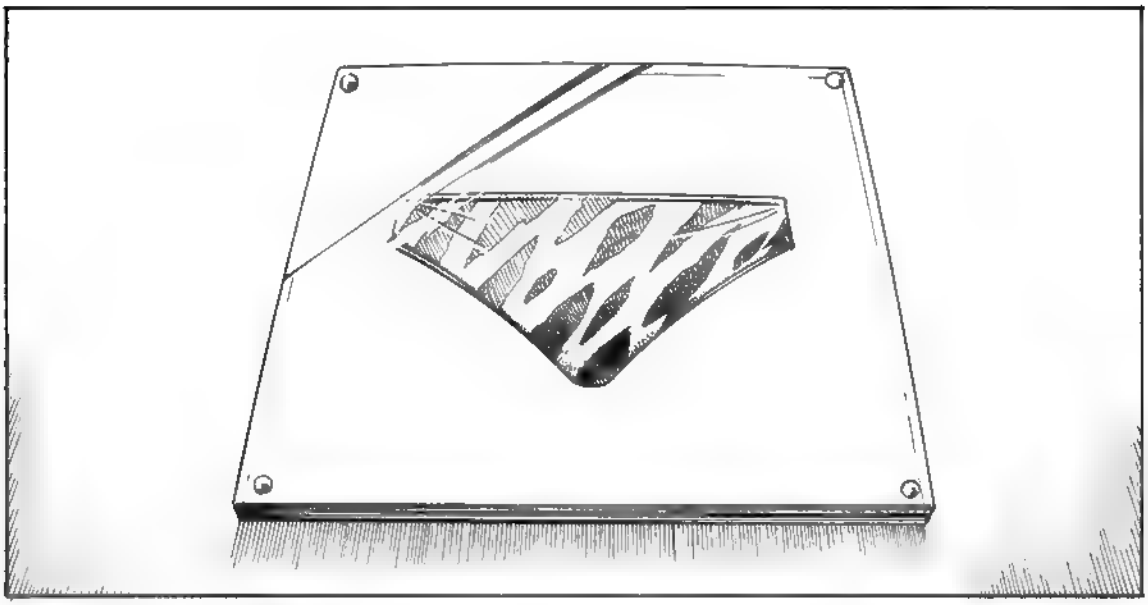
LOVER-BOY!?
L-

WH-WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
'COS HE STOLE MY MAGIC!
SO HE MIGHT AS WELL STEAL MY HEART TOO! ☆

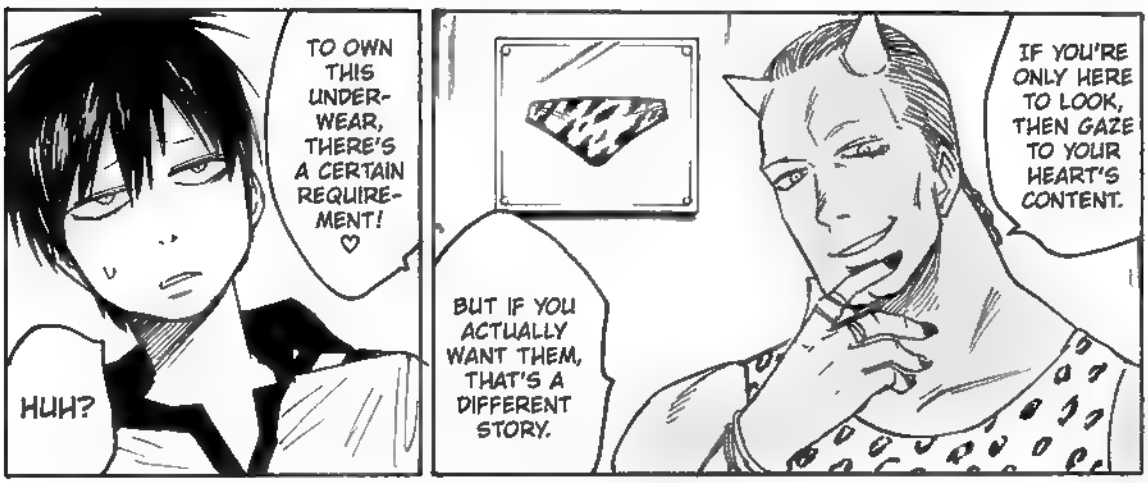
SIGN: OGRE (ONI)



I'M SUPPOSED TO PICK UP A CERTAIN SOME-THING HERE FOR SOMEBODY.
...WHAT-EVER.
YOU'VE COME TO THE HUMAN WORLD LOCATION OF THE DEMON WORLD CLOTHING SHOP, ONIQLO.
WHY, YES. YES, IT IS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MUST BE A DEMON...? THIS IS THE HUMAN WORLD...
THAT SORT OF CUSTOMER, ARE YOU?
OHH?
SO I JUST WANNA GET IT AND GET GOING.
I THINK I'VE GOT WHAT YOU WANT...
...RIGHT HERE. ♡
TO THE BACK ROOM, THEN. RIGHT THIS WAY.
GACHA (CLACK)
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO IN THE FIRST PLACE?



UH-HUH...
I HONESTLY COULD NOT GIVE LESS OF A CRAP.
...AND NO MATTER WHAT BEFELL, THEY NEVER TORE!
THE LEGENDARY UNDERWEAR! WORN BY MY KINFOLK CONTINUOUSLY FOR A HUNDRED YEARS...
THE "OGRE UN-DIES"!


HUH?
TO OWN THIS UNDER-WEAR, THERE'S A CERTAIN REQUIRE-MENT! ♡
BUT IF YOU ACTUALLY WANT THEM, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
IF YOU'RE ONLY HERE TO LOOK, THEN GAZE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

GAAN
(CRASH)
GO
(WHAM)
DO
(WHOOM)

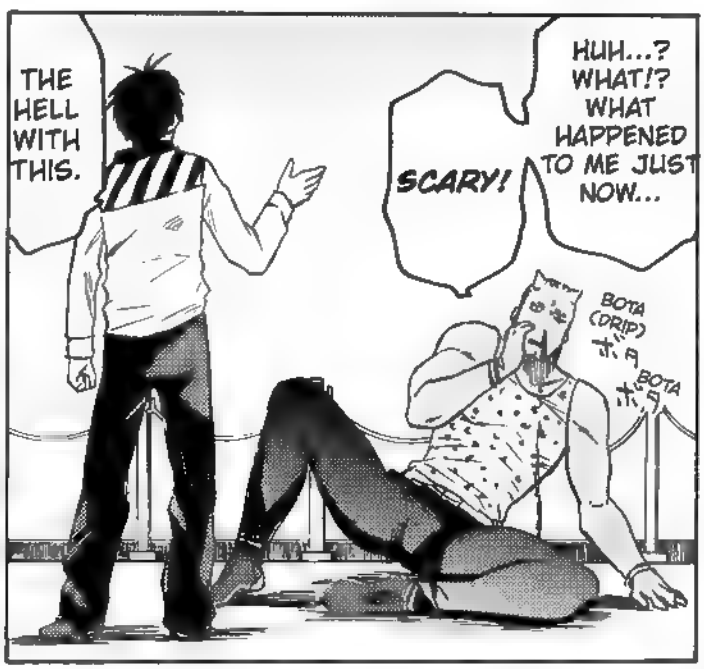
...IS FIT TO POSSESS THESE MANLY SHORTS!
ONLY A MAN WHO'S STRONGER THAN ME...

WHY, YOU'RE AWFULLY DELICATE...
I BARELY MEANT TO HIT YOU AT ALL!
...SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
KOFF!
PARA
PARA (CRUMBLE)
KOFF!
BICHA (SPLAT)
BICHA
NOT BAD. THAT'S ABOUT THE PUNCH I WOULD EXPECT FROM SOMEBODY HIDING OUT IN THE HUMAN WORLD...
...IN A STORE ONLY HIGH-RANKING DEMONS CAN GET INTO, PROTECTING SOME NASTY PAIR OF UNDIES.
NAS-TY...
...UNDIES, YOU SAY...!?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TALK THAT WAY...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO EASY...
UNH... HMM...? WHAT'S GOING ON...?
I CAN'T... MOVE...
...ON YOU!!
BITA (FREEZE)
BUT IF MY STARE CAN WORK ON YOU...
...YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A DEMON.

PAAN
(POW)
WHAT A JOKE.

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN AKIHABARA BY NOW, BUYING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT...


THE HELL WITH THIS.
SCARY!
HUH...? WHAT!? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME JUST NOW...
BOTA (DRIP)
BOTA

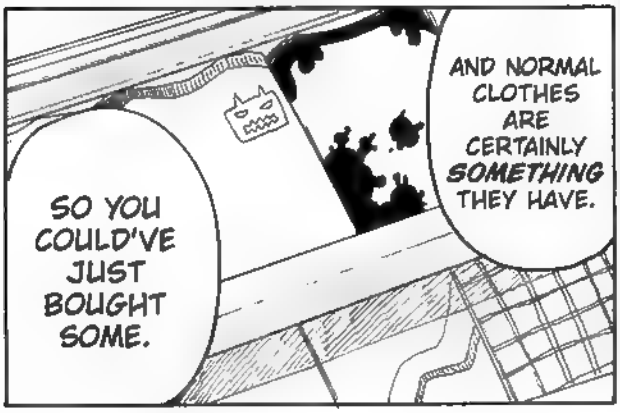
I DON'T WANT THEM.
BUT I'M TAKING THEM.
...WHAT A CRIME ...

...OVER A PAIR OF UNDIES I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT.
...BUT NO, NOW I'M DUKING IT OUT WITH A GAY OGRE...
WHA... YOU DON'T WANT THE UNDIES?

...I DON'T WANT 'EM EITHER.
WELL, TRUTH BE TOLD...

I SAID A CERTAIN SOME-THING, DIDN'T I?
WHA!?

BUT NICE WORK!


AND NORMAL CLOTHES ARE CERTAINLY SOMETHING THEY HAVE.
SO YOU COULD'VE JUST BOUGHT SOME.

I TRUST FUYUMI YANAGI IS UN-HARMED ...?
ピシィ
PISHI (SNAP)
ARE YOU STUPID?
PUPUPU (PFFFT)
プピプ
WHAT, WERE YOU SERIOUSLY FIGHTING THE STORE OWNER FOR A PAIR OF UNDIES?

STAZ-SAN...
SHE'S RIGHT OVER HERE, SEE?
WELL, AREN'T YOU A COUPLE OF LOVE-BIRDS...
OH...! NO...! WAIT!
NOW STAND BACK SO I CAN BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF HER.
OH GOOD, YOU'RE OKAY.
I CAN EXPLAIN!
ゴキ ゴキ

SFX: GOKI (CRACK) GOKI

TH-THAT'S RIGHT, BELL! WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO DO!
WHAT? IF YOU WANNA TEST ME, THEN COME AT ME YOURSELF! FORGET THIS SHOP GUY!
I WAS TOTALLY JUST ABOUT TO KILL THIS GUY.
BELL-SAN IS LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE WITH REALLY POWERFUL MAGIC...
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE FOUND OUT A FEW THINGS.
WELP.
SCARY...
EH...
...SO SHE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO TEST YOU, STAZ-SAN.

YOU TWO SEEM PRETTY DAMN FRIENDLY ...
BIKI (POP)
ST... STAZ-SAN, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
PLEASE, DON'T FLIP OUT...
BIKI
SURI (RUB)
SURI
LIKE THAT FUYUMICCHI REALLY IS A GOOD GIRL, BUT STAZ IS JUST TRASH!

WHEN I SAID YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BRING ME BACK TO LIFE...
...BELL-SAN SAID SHE KNOWS HOW...
WHA ...?

I TOLD BELL-SAN ...
...ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I FOUND THE CURTAIN AND WENT TO THE DEMON WORLD.

HEY, FUYU-MICCHI!! THAT'S OUR SECRET!!
TO PROVE YOU WEREN'T THE ONE WHO GOT OUT THE CURTAIN BECAUSE—
OHH ...? WHY?
OH... WELL, ANYWAY ...

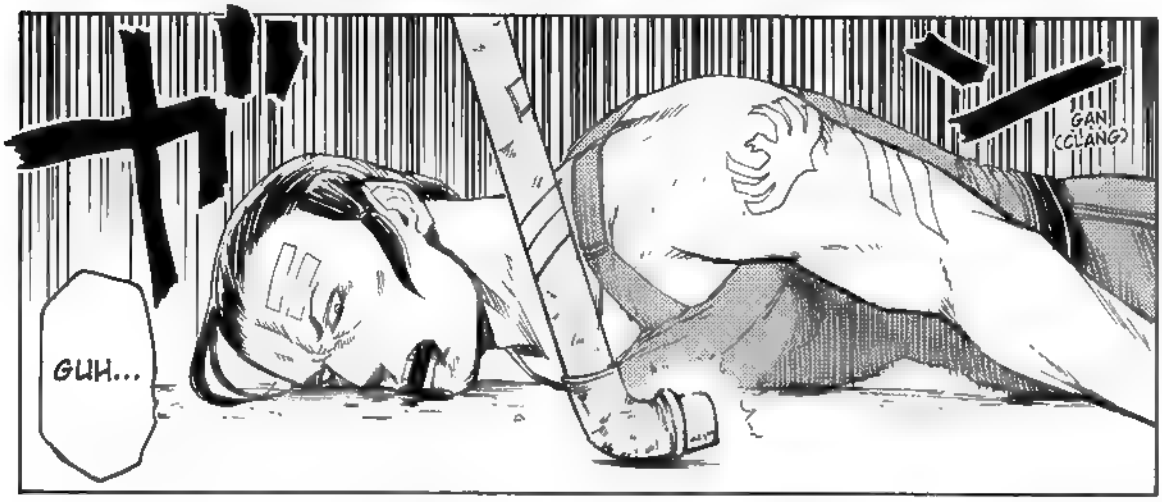
SO CHEER UP ALREADY!
YOU USED TO HAVE IT...
...BUT NOT ANYMORE...?
IN-DEED I DO!
IT'S GOTTA BE THE BOOK OF HUMAN RESURRECTION!
I USED TO HAVE A BOOK CALLED THAT.
SOLD IT.
WHAT DID IT SAY!?
DON'T RECALL.
YOU LITTLE...
WOLF'S TERRITORY...
WOLF!?
BUT I DO REMEMBER WHERE I SOLD IT.
IT WAS DEFINITELY... DEMON WORLD WEST...
HEARD OF HIM?
.....
MORE THAN HEARD OF HIM...

♠ To Be Continued ♠

WELL...? WANT TO TRY IT ON?
GOKURI (GULP) ゴクリ
THIS... THIS IS STAN-DARD FASHION FOR THE DEMON WORLD...
SHIRT: OGRE

BLOOD LAD

CHAPTER 5 ♠ A BIRD THAT CAN'T FLY

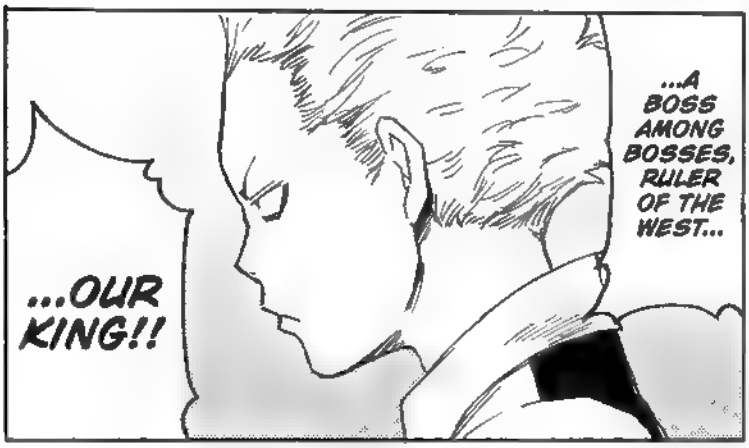

GAN (CLANG)
GUH...

THERE ARE TWENTY-TWO TERRITORIES IN DEMON WORLD WEST.
AND NOW EIGHTEEN OF THEM ...
...ARE MINE.

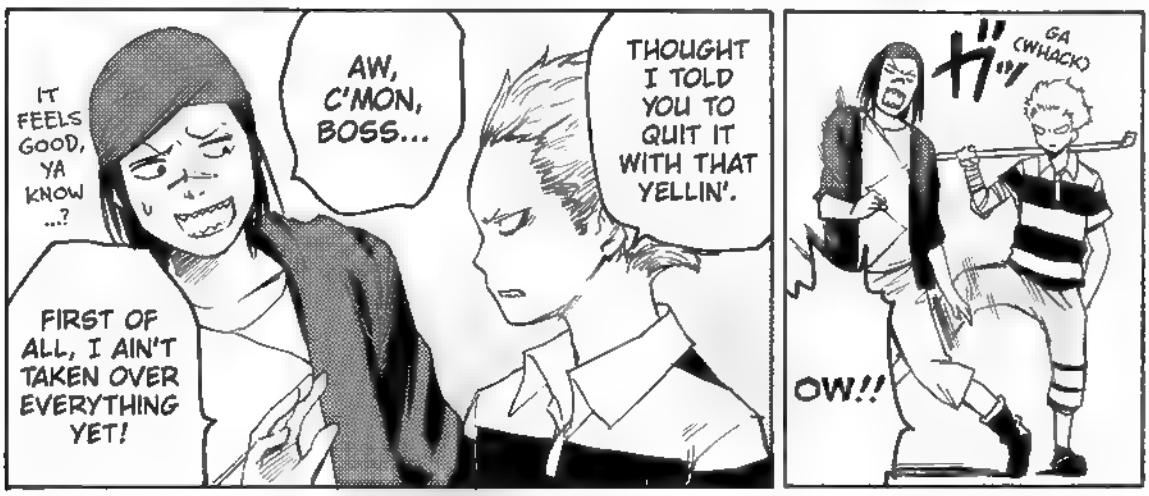
WAAAAA
(CHEER)

THIS IS THE MAN STANDIN' AT THE TOP OF IT ALL...
AND DON'T NOBODY FORGET!

EVERY-BODY, LISTEN UP!
FROM NOW ON, THIS TERRITORY'S UNDER OUR CONTROL!


...A BOSS AMONG BOSSES, RULER OF THE WEST...
...OUR KING!!

REMEMBER THE NAME OF KING WOLF!!
WAAAA (CHEER)


IT FEELS GOOD, YA KNOW ...?
FIRST OF ALL, I AIN'T TAKEN OVER EVERYTHING YET!
AW, C'MON, BOSS...
THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO QUIT IT WITH THAT YELLIN'.
GA (WHACK)
OW!!

.....
CONQUERING THE WEST'LL BE A TOTAL CINCH FOR YOU, BOSS WOLF!
OKAY, I'LL PRACTICE!
WHATEVER.
SO...THEN I CAN DO IT WHEN YOU ARE RUNNING THE WHOLE PLACE?
I JUST WANNA CHALLENGE SOMEONE WHO'LL ACTUALLY PUT UP A FIGHT.
THAT AIN'T THE POINT ...
DAMMIT ...
I'M GOIN' HOME.
I DON'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT CONQUESTS.
AIN'T A DAMN SOUL AROUND HERE WORTH FIGHTING. WIMPS, ALL OF 'EM.
I'M GETTIN' BORED...
YOU JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND.

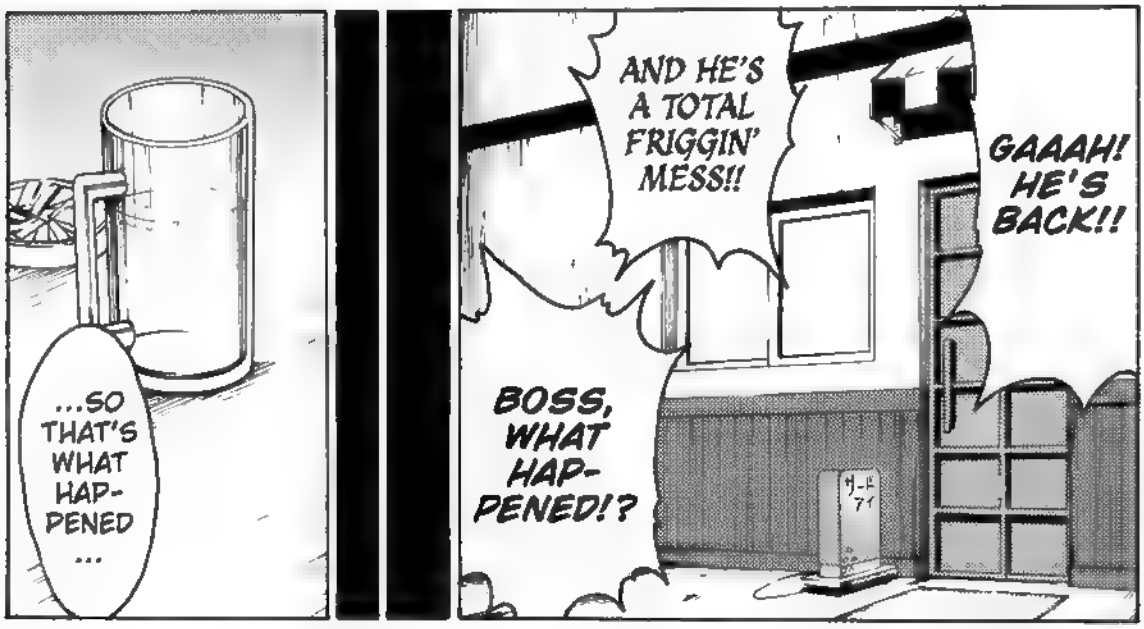
# CHAPTER 5 ♠ A BIRD THAT CAN'T FLY

MORE BRAWN THAN BRAINS— WAY MORE.
INSTEAD OF USING HIS MAGIC POWER, HE CHANNELS IT INTO PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
THAT'S THE WOLF I KNOW...
鬼
HIS STRENGTH IS EVERY-THING.
GOOD THING YOU KNOW HIM, THOUGH!
HEY ...
THE SHOP-KEEPER KNOWS HIS STUFF.
WHY, IT SUITS YOU!
STYLISH, YET REBEL-LIOUS.
HE'LL LET YOU SEE THE RESURRECTION BOOK IF YOU ASK, RIGHT?
SEE, I DON'T REALLY CARE.
DAMMIT, LISTEN TO ME!!

HMM ...
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
NOT LIKE I CAN JUST GO VISIT HIM.
YOU THINK IT'S GONNA BE THAT EASY?
WE'RE BOTH TERRITORY BOSSES NOW...
BUT WE COULD EASILY SLIP IN WITH MY TELE-PORTATION ...
...THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'?
RIGHT ON.
NO WAY.
UH-HUH.
SEE, I'M ALL RIGHT WITH USIN' PEOPLE, BUT I JUST HATE BEIN' USED, YOU GET MY DRIFT?
GUESS I'M OUTTA LUCK...
IF I WANT SOME-THING DONE ...
GU (CLENCH)
...GUESS I'M BETTER OFF RELYING ON MY OWN TWO FISTS...

KAN (CLANK)
CHEERS!
SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR, THIRD EYE
ゴッ GO ゴッ GO ゴッ GO ゴッ GO (GLUG) ゴッ GO ゴッ
サードアイ
HOW ABOUT WE JUST KEEP IT LIKE THIS!?
YOU'RE REALLY PULLIN' IT OFF TOO, YOSHIDA!
カラン KARAN (JINGLE)
カラン KARAN
WAH HA HA HA!
WE DON'T NEED THAT GUY AT ALL!
AHHH!
MAN, THIS IS AWE-SOME!
WITH THAT GUY OUT OF TOWN, WE CAN FINALLY HAVE A DAY TO RELAX!!
BOOZE NEVER TASTED BETTER!!

鬼
UM...
SHIRT: OGRE (ONI)


...SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED ...
BOSS, WHAT HAP-PENED!?
AND HE'S A TOTAL FRIGGIN' MESS!!
GAAAH! HE'S BACK!!

...AND NOW HERE HE IS...
WHAT KINDA EXPLA-NATION IS THAT!!?
SHUBA (SHOOP)
STAZ-SAN GOT COUNTER-ATTACKED ...
ZUMU (ZOOM)
...BY HIS OWN PUNCHES ...
PIKU (TWITCH)
THAT HAG ...
Y-YOU'RE OKAY ALREADY ...?
NEXT TIME I SEE HER, SHE'LL REALLY GET IT ...
ZABAA (POUR)
GA (GRAB)
DON (SLAM)

KYAAA!!
GA (GRAB)
YES! OUR VALIANT, INVINCIBLE, AWESOME BOSS!
OH ...
TH-THAT'S OUR BOSS! DOESN'T DIE EVEN IF HE'S KILLED!
THAT'S HOW IT WORKS WHEN I'M BREATHING DEMON WORLD AIR.
REALLY?
YOU STU— I MEAN, I WAS JUST KIDDING, Y'KNOW ...?
YOU HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT ME, HMM?
REALLY TRULY! YOU'RE THE BEST, BOSS!
DEMON WORLD WEST...
...TO WOLF'S TERRITORY.
HUH? YOU'RE GOING SOMEWHERE AGAIN...?
YEP.
THEN YOU'RE GONNA STICK WITH ME FROM NOW ON.

WHAT'S THE DEAL, BELL?
SO HE'S DECIDED TO GO ON HIS OWN.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST TAKEN THEM, YOU KNOW, WITHOUT PLAYING GAMES ABOUT IT?
HYUK YUK YUK!
YEP.
I DON'T THINK FUYUMICCHI'S LYIN' TO ME...
...BUT I'M NOT A HUNDRED PERCENT CONVINCED STAZ IS INNOCENT EITHER.
OH, YOU DON'T GET IT, SHOPKEEPER.
SEE, I'M STILL SUSPICIOUS.
YOU MEAN THAT HE'S THE GUY WHO STOLE YOUR MAGIC?
SUSPICIOUS ...?
YOU NOTICED WHEN YOU FOUGHT HIM TOO, RIGHT?
GYU (CLENCH)

BUT IS HE REALLY HIDING SO MUCH MAGIC THAT HE COULD STEAL YOURS, BELL?
...HE IS.
HE'S HIDING A BUTT-LOAD OF MAGIC.
HON-ESTLY ...
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA FIND OUT.
...WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO ROUND-ABOUT?
.....
TO MAKE HIM YOUR LOVER-BOY?
WH-WHAT? I JUST WANNA FIND THE CULPRIT...
CAN'T YOU JUST UP AND SAY HE STRIKES YOUR FANCY?
ZA (CRUNCH)

HELL NO!

FIRST YOU'RE GOIN' TO THE HUMAN WORLD. NOW IT'S ANOTHER TERRITORY— YOU JACKASS, WHEN'S IT GONNA STOP!?

MAKE SURE HIS COLLAR'S GOOD AND TIGHT.

SAVE IT.

AND WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO GO!?

DO

DO (STOMP)

YOUR RIDE'S COMIN', BOSS.

GOOD.

EVERYONE READY?

HERE WE GO.

BCB

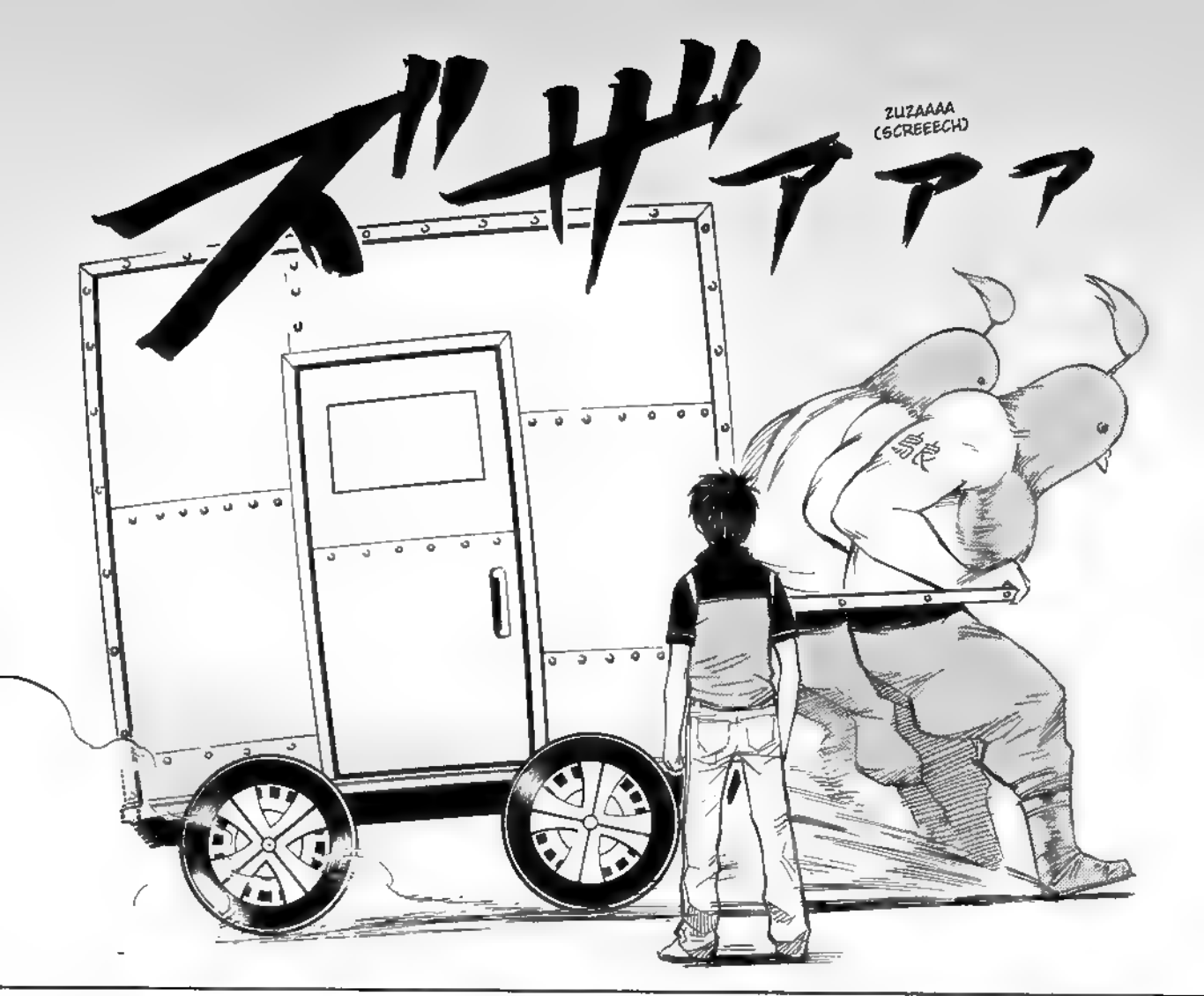
HERE WE GO.
BCB

HELL NO!
FIRST YOU'RE GOIN' TO THE HUMAN WORLD. NOW IT'S ANOTHER TERRITORY—YOU JACKASS, WHEN'S IT GONNA STOP!?

MAKE SURE HIS COLLAR'S GOOD AND TIGHT.
SAVE IT.
AND WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO GO!?

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)
YOUR RIDE'S COMIN', BOSS.
GOOD.

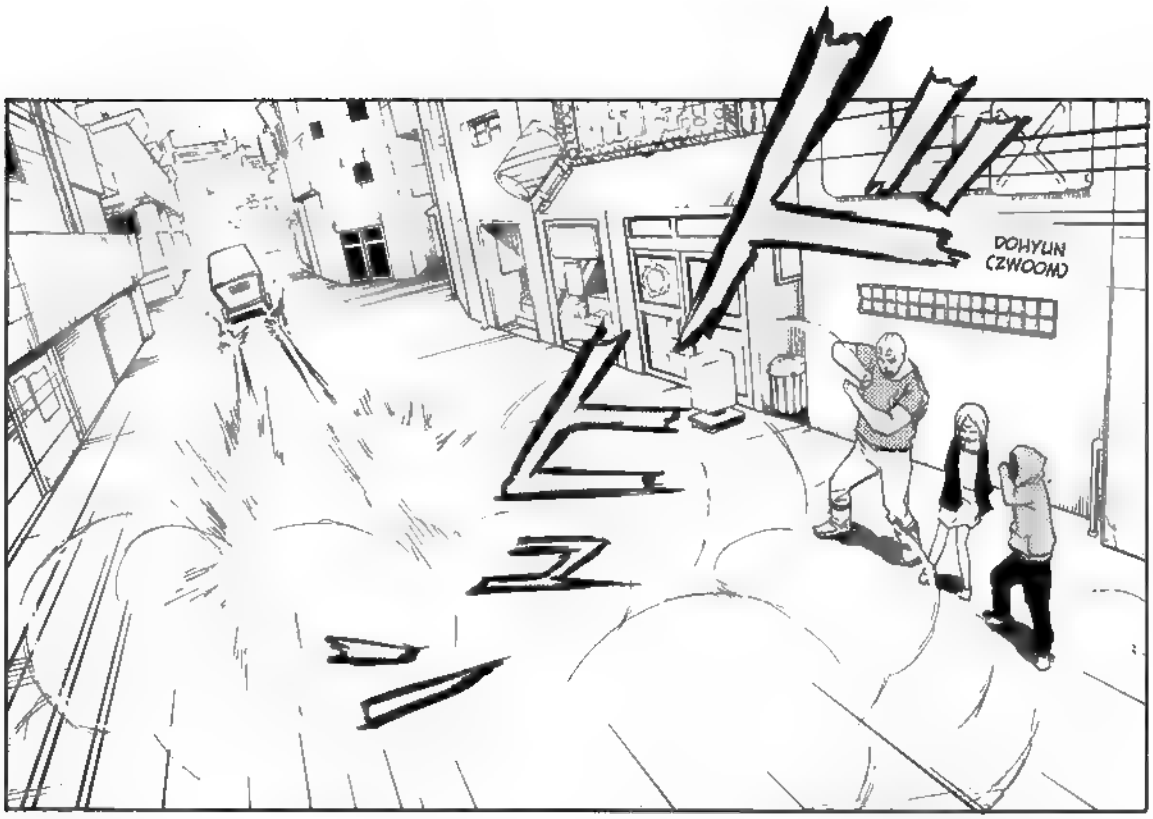
EVERYONE READY?

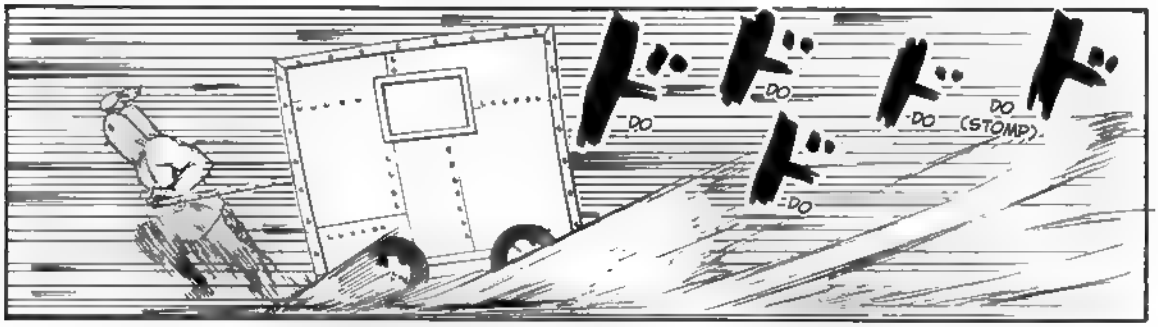



TATTOO: TORIYOSHI (NOTE: A RESTAURANT CHAIN SPECIALIZING IN CHICKEN...)

ONE ...
PERA (FLIP)
PERA
TWO ...
COO-COO!
WE'RE GOING TO DEMON WORLD WEST.
W-WH-WH...WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE(?) ...?
CREEPY...
THE QUESTION IS...
...ARE THESE BIRDBRAINS WILLING TO TAKE ON THE DANGEROUS BUSINESS OF TRANSPORTING A TERRITORY BOSS...?
BCB
THEY RUN FAST, BUT THEY COUNT SLOW.
TH-THEY'RE BOTH COUNTING THE MONEY ...
CREEPY...
WAIT, SO WE'RE GETTING IN THAT ...?
TATTOO: TRANSPORT
WELL, IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO NICE, BUT IT'S GOT ITS ADVANTAGES.
IT'LL GET US THERE FASTER THAN ANYTHING.
AND YOU CAN'T SEE IN FROM THE OUTSIDE, SO IT'S GOOD FOR TRAVELING IN SECRET.

バターン
BATAN (SLAM)
AND WE'RE OFF.
READY...
...FOR TAKE-OFF!!
THEY REALLY DID LET US IN WITHOUT A HITCH...
WELL, THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH IDIOTS...
ONE MORE ADVANTAGE IS, THEY'LL GLADLY GO ANYWHERE IF YOU SHOW THEM A WAD OF CASH.
BUT...

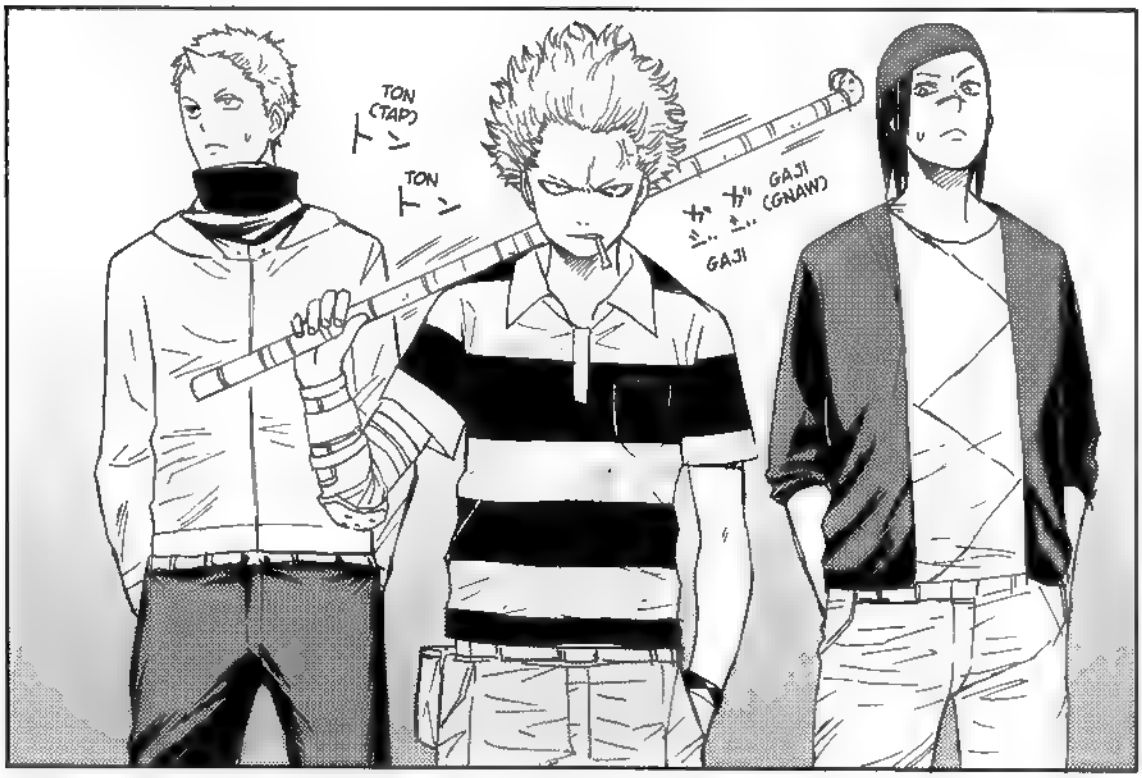

DOHYUN
(ZWOOM)


DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)

...IS THAT WHEN THEY GET TOO EXCITED, THE TAKEOFF IS KINDA HARSH.
GATA
GATA (RATTLE)
GATA
GATA
BUT ONE DISAD-VANTAGE ...

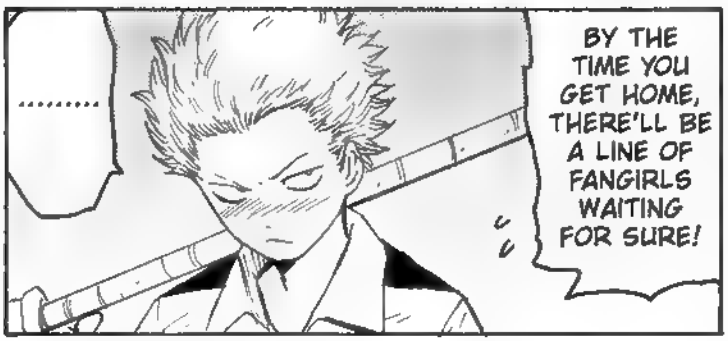
WHOOOOOA!!
ドドドドドドドド
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)

GAME
XXX

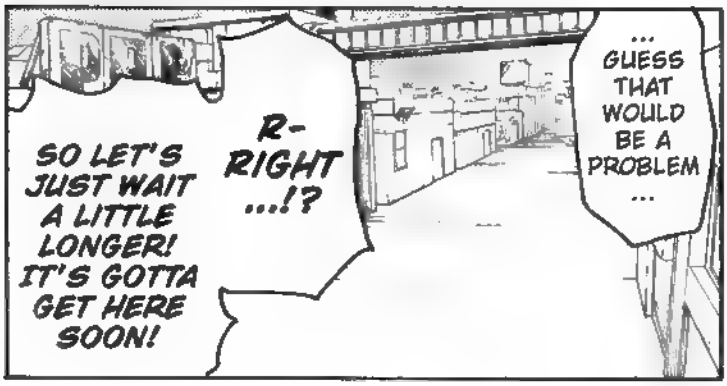

TON (TAP)
トン
TON
トン
ガジ
GAJI
GAJI (GNAW)

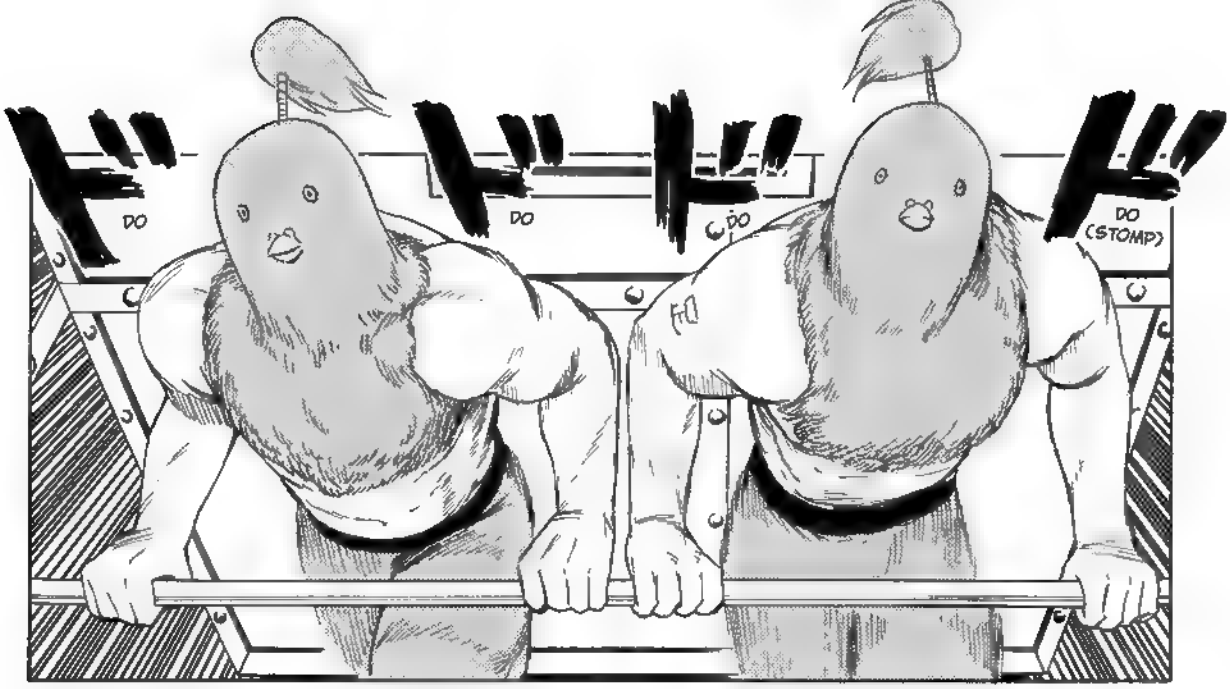
FORGET IT.
SHOULD I CALL AGAIN, BOSS?
BU (PTOO)
WELL, THEY SAID IT'S ON THE WAY NOW...
UH...
HEY, THE RIDE AIN'T HERE YET?
SIGN: WELCOME TO DEMON WORLD EAST
BUT WE'RE ON THE BORDER OF THE WEST!
THE EAST IS RIGHT THERE...
...AND OUR BASE IS LIKE FIVE HUNDRED KILO-METERS AWAY!!
ARE YOU SURE!? THAT'S A REALLY, REALLY LONG WAY!
WHA...
I'LL WALK HOME.
AIN'T NOBODY STUPID ENOUGH TO BOTHER ME NOW.
THE WEST IS PRETTY MUCH ALL MINE.
PIKU (TWITCH)
...SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'...
IT'D BE FASTER TO WAIT FOR THE RIDE!

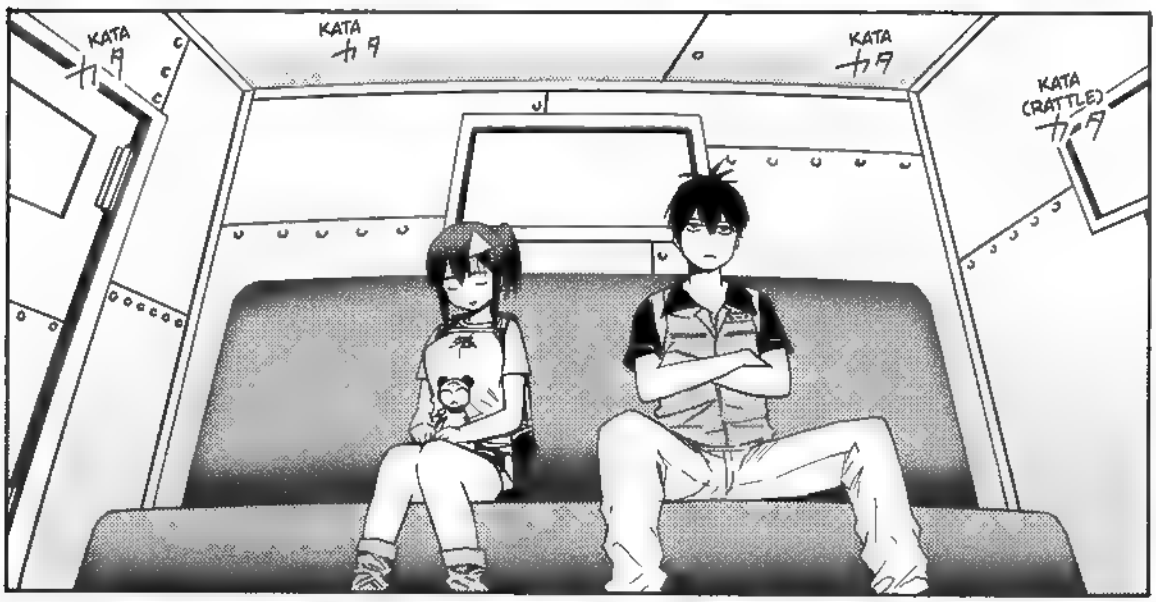
...IS THAT MY OWN TWO DAMN FEET...
...AIN'T AS GOOD AS SOME RIDE?
UH... THAT ... NO...
ZOKU (SHIVER)
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYIN' AT ALL...


.....
BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME, THERE'LL BE A LINE OF FANGIRLS WAITING FOR SURE!

IT-IT'S JUST, YOU'RE THE FACE OF THE WEST NOW...
...SO EVEN IF NOBODY'S GONNA PICK A FIGHT, YOU MIGHT GET FANS DEMANDIN' AN AUTOGRAPH AND STUFF!


SO LET'S JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER! IT'S GOTTA GET HERE SOON!
R-RIGHT ...!?
... GUESS THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM ...


DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)


KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA (RATTLE)

JUST MAKE HER STARE OUT THE WINDOW.
ANYWAY, YOU'RE UP SOON.
HUH?

HEY, SO MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE THIS CHAIN OFF?
I'M SENSING SOME IMMINENT COOKIE TOSSING HERE...
MAN, SO THEY FINALLY SETTLED DOWN.

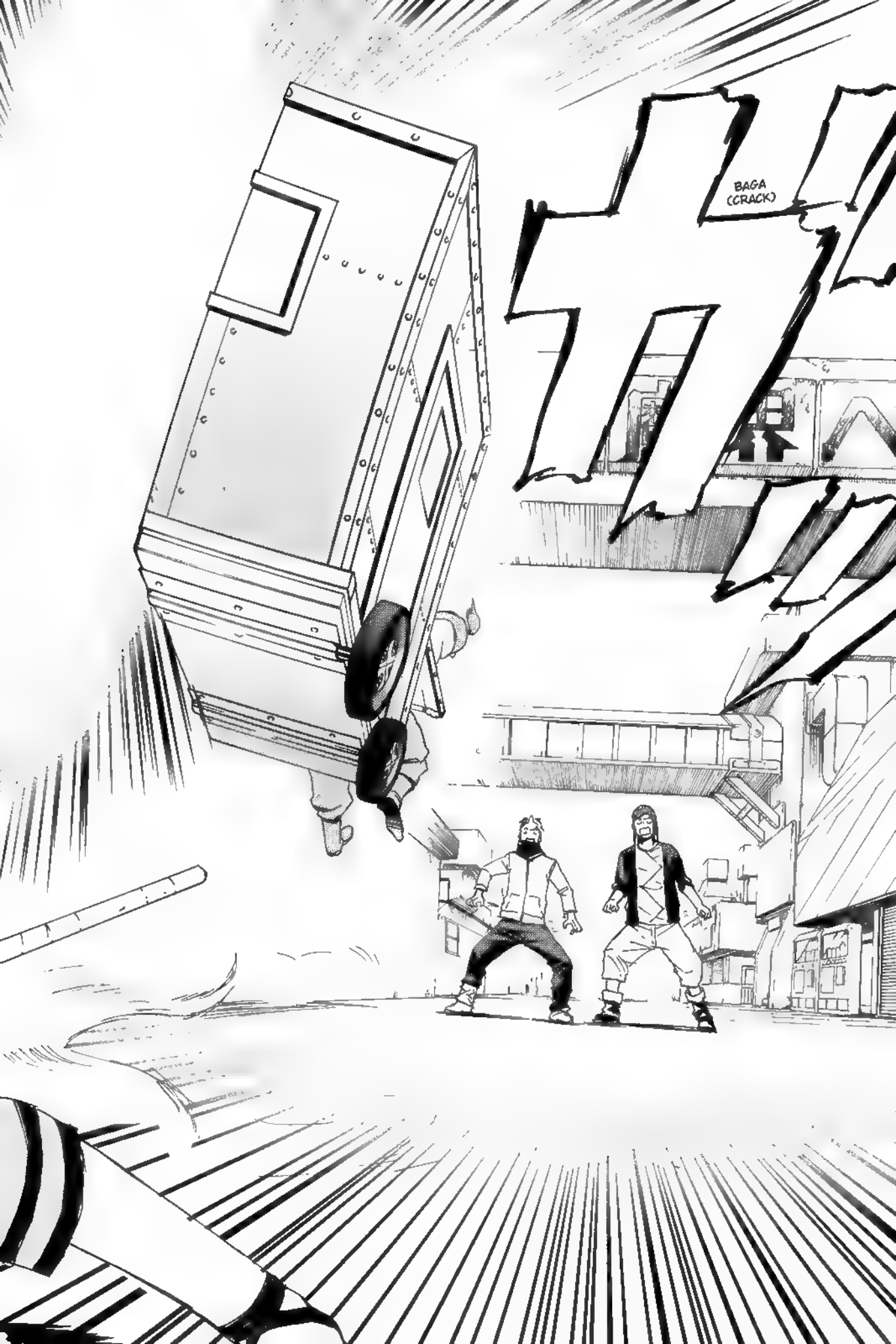
East
West
SOON WE'LL BE GETTING TO THE BORDER BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST.
WE'VE ALREADY MADE IT ACROSS TWO OR THREE TERRITORIES.
IT'LL BE A PAIN IF WE RUN INTO ANY OTHER TERRITORY BOSSES...
IF SOMEBODY FINDS US, IT'LL BE AN AMBUSH...
...AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND A GROUP ATTACK!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU GET THE PICTURE.
A PAIN? THAT'S IT?
TO ANYBODY ELSE WE'RE GONNA LOOK LIKE AN INVASION FORCE SET OUT TO EXPAND OUR TURF!
I-I CAN'T JUST DO THIS ON THE FLY... I NEED SATY TO—
JUST LOOKING NEARBY IS FINE. YOU CAN DO THAT BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
TO NAVIGATE A ROUTE WHERE THE OTHER BOSSES WON'T FIND US.
WHA...!?
THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOUR THIRD EYE.

POWER OF FORE-SIGHT...
GUESS I HAVE TO...I'LL GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT...
EAGLE EYE!!

DON
(BAM)
AHA ...!
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE!?
WHAT?
STOP! RIGHT NOW! WE'RE GONNA RUN RIGHT INTO HIM!!
WHA ...?
TWO KILOMETERS STRAIGHT AHEAD...

IT'S FINALLY HERE.
OH.
DO DO DO (STOMP) DO
ドドドド
...WOLF IS THERE!!
STOP! STOP!
HEY! OVER HERE!
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
CHA (CHAK)
HEY! RIGHT HERE!
WHA—!? THEY'RE NOT SLOWIN' DOWN...
PULL OVER ALREADY!!

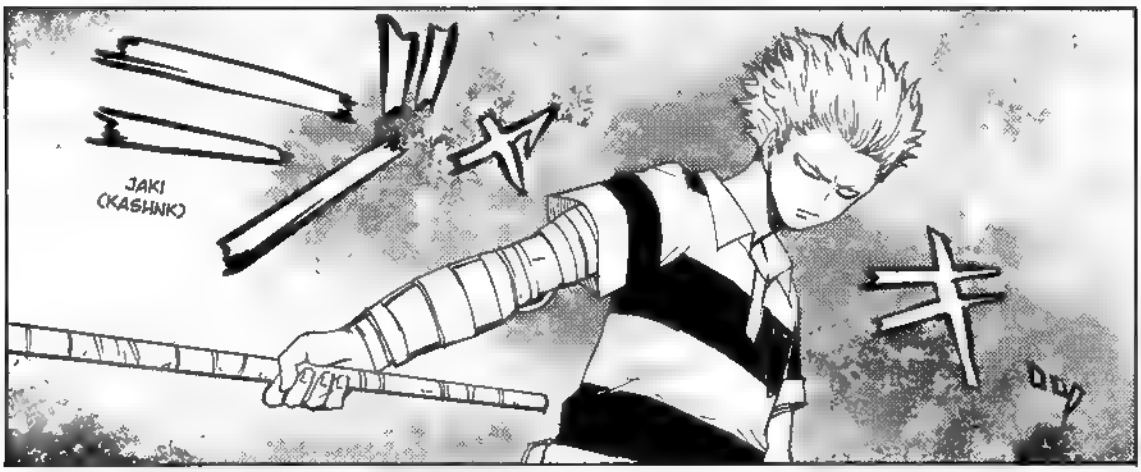
BAGA (CRACK)


BAGA
(CRACK)

ドザァァァァ
DOZAAAAA (SLIIIDE)
IT SURE IS...
.....
NOW IT'S STOP-PED.
ドガシャラゴシャ
SFX: DOGA (THUD) SHARA (SLIDE) GOSHA (CRASH)
ZAMU (SHOOMP)

YOU...

BEEN A WHILE, HUH?
WOLF-BOY.

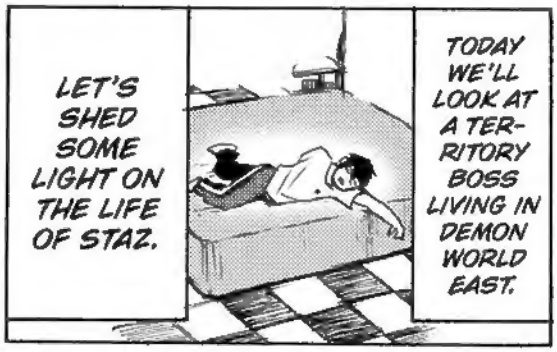


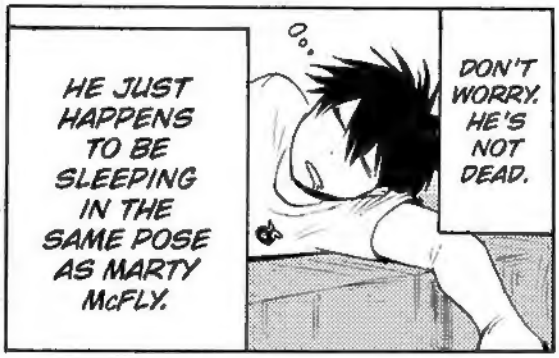
♠ To Be Continued ♠

# LIVING IN THE DEMON WORLD

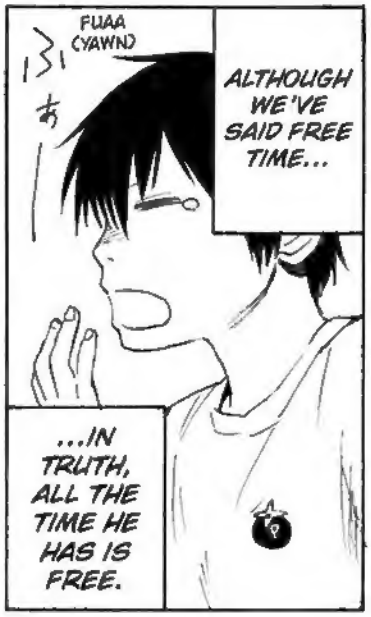
## STAZ'S EVERYDAY LIFE

DOYO
ドよ
WE SAY "DAY," BUT IN THE DEMON WORLD THERE ISN'T ACTUALLY A DAY OR NIGHT.
THE SKY IS ALWAYS GLOOMY JUST LIKE THIS.
ドよ
DOYO (GLOOM)






SFX: GORO (GARGLE) GORO GORO GORO



BUT TO ANYONE ELSE, THEY'RE JUST STORAGE ROOMS FULL OF JUNK.
HE CALLS ALL OF THE OTHER ROOMS HIS COLLECTION ROOMS.
THERE ARE NO OTHER TENANTS IN HIS APART-MENT BUILDING.
...SO THE BIGGER THE CITY, THE FIERCER THE COMPETITION TO BECOME ITS BOSS.
THE SIZE OF A TERRITORY DETERMINES ITS YIELD...
THE MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME FOR A TERRITORY BOSS IS THE RENT PAID BY THE TERRITORY'S INHABITANTS.
SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR, THIRD EYE
カラン
KARAN
カラン
KARAN (JINGLE)
サードアイ
THIS IS A TERRI-TORY CHAL-LENGE ...!!
SO THE BOSS BEST GET THE HELL OUT HERE!!
GIMME A GINGER ALE AND BEANS.
WELCO— OH, IT'S JUST STAZ...
HOWEVER, THERE ARE PLACES WHERE THE BOSS HAS GRANTED EXEMPTION FROM RENT.
THE CAFÉ & BAR THIRD EYE IS ONE OF THESE.
...BUT SO FAR, HE'S NEVER LOST HIS SEAT AS BOSS.
HIS TERRITORY GETS A BIT OF COMPETI-TION...
PUSHUU (FSHHHD)

-JINGLE-
-JINGLE-
SATY-CHAN, YOU GOT TODAY'S PAPER?
GEEZ. YOU KEEP ON COMIN' EVERY DAY JUST BECAUSE IT'S FREE.
AND IN RE-TURN ...
OH, BOSS. THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HERE.
WEL-COME.
66
THANK YOU.
HERE.
...HIS DRINKS ARE ON THE HOUSE.
MHM.
SHUT UP! IF YOU DON'T CAN IT, I'LL CHUCK THESE BEANS AT YOU!
SWEET!! CAN IT CROSS ITS ARMS!?
OH MAN, HERE IT IS!! A COM-PLETELY TRANS-FORMABLE GUN-BUSTER!!
MAN, IT TOOK SOME WORK TO SCORE THIS.
OOH. DEK, IS THAT ...?
WHOA, YOU GOT IT FOR REAL?
BUSTER BEEEEAM!
HE SPENDS HIS DAYS IDLING LIKE THIS...
THAT IS, UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF ONE FUYUMI YANAGI.
EAT THIS!
HYU (FWIP)
...DA-DAAH ...!
DO-DOO DO-DOO DO-DOO...
PTMT
OH, I'LL HAVE AN ICED COFFEE AND THE SANDWICH SPECIAL.

END

# BLOOD LAD 1

YUUKI KODAMA

Translation: Melissa Tanaka

Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

BLOOD LAD Volume 1 © Yuuki KODAMA 2010. Edited by KADOKAWA SHOTEN. First published in Japan in 2010 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo. English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo, through TUTTLE-MORI AGENCY, INC., Tokyo.

Translation © 2012 by Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Application Copyright © 2010 by Hachette Book Group, Inc.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc.
The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: December 2012

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-22904-3

App ISBN: 978-0-316-25466-3